THE TIMES

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WEDNESDAY MAY 14 1997

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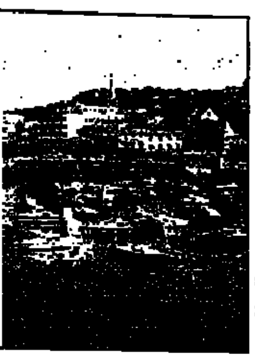

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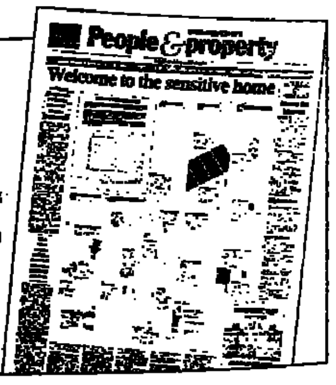


Sparks fly over flowers and dinners

Howard team accused of smear tactics

By Andrew Pierce and Richard Ford

CHRIS HARRIS

Widdecombe yesterday: "Patronising to assume that a 49-year-old spinster is vulnerable to such blandishments"

ANN Widdecombe, the former Prisons Minister, accused Michael Howard of attempting to discredit her yesterday as the Tory leadership contest descended into personal abuse and bitter recriminations.

The former Home Secretary denied Miss Widdecombe's claims that he, or his campaign team, were behind the reports that she had become too close to Derek Lewis, the sacked prisons director. Miss Widdecombe dimissed as a "demonstrable smear" the suggestions that her judgment had been clouded about Mr Lewis after he had wooed her with flowers, chocolates and private dinners.

But she revealed that she sent Mr Lewis's wife, Louise, a £30 bouquet from Interflora on the day her husband was sacked with a simple message: Love and prayers. "For which thought I was bawled out by Mr Howard," she said.

In an interview with *The Times*, the unmarried Miss Widdecombe flatly rejected the assertion in press reports yesterday that her head been turned by Mr Lewis's gifts of flowers, chocolates and private dinners.

"Apart from the fact it is not true, it is extremely patronising to assume that a 49-year-old spinster is vulnerable to such blandishments," she said. "I wonder if they would have said such things about a 49-year-old bachelor."

Lewis: bouquet came from wife and him

Mr Lewis said in a statement last night that at no time while he was in office had he sent Miss Widdecombe flowers or had her to dinner. He said that on two occasions over a year after he left the prison, Mr Lewis and his wife Louise sent flowers to her. The statement added that he had not dined with her until after he left the service.

Miss Widdecombe will see Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, tomorrow to seek permission to make a personal statement on the floor of the Commons. She would use the occasion to accuse Mr Howard of misleading Parliament in the Commons censure debate over Mr Lewis's sacking in October 1995.

Asked why she had waited 18 months to accuse Mr Howard of misleading the Commons, she replied: "I only realised in February when I read Derek Lewis's book about his time at the prison service. Something fell into place."

Miss Widdecombe said that in February Mr Lewis delivered a copy of the book, *Hidden Agendas*, about his period at the prison service, to her home. "He also gave me a small bunch of flowers. I suspect he bought them at a petrol station. He was on his way to a family lunch."

As for being wooed with chocolates, she said: "Nobody, especially my friends, woo me with chocolate. They have too much respect for the width of my figure."

In a new twist Peter Lilley, who Miss Widdecombe is supporting for the leadership, publicly dissociated himself from Mr Howard's former deputy. He said: "I am not prepared to have as a member of my team anybody who publicly criticises a fellow candidate."

As the controversy once again engulfed the leadership campaign Mr Howard denied that his team was behind the black propaganda about Miss Widdecombe, which appeared in yesterday's *Daily Mail*.

Unnamed "insiders" were quoted as saying she had opposed Mr Howard's decision to sack Mr Lewis in October 1995, after lapses in prison security, because he "flattered her vanity". The insider added: "He sent her flowers and took her to dinner. I don't think she was used to that, poor girl."

A hunt was under way yesterday to discover the culprit responsible for triggering the black propaganda war. The key liasion figure with the media in Mr Howard's troubled leadership camp is Tim Collins, a rising star of the party, who is well versed in the black art of unattributable press briefings. Mr Collins, 33, has been deployed around the House of Commons press gallery as the rapid response unit to the Widdecombe allegations.

"Politics can get dirty," Miss Widdecombe said yesterday, "but the suggestion I became too close to Derek Lewis is a disgusting lie and demonstrable smear. I was rarely alone with Mr Lewis."

She added: "There is something about the night about Michael. Our relationship became so difficult in the end that I had to raise my pencil to try to ensure I was called at departmental meetings."

As the insults flew thick and fast Mr Howard in turn effectively accused Miss Widdecombe of lying. He told the BBC: "My colleagues in the parliamentary party will look at these allegations and will judge them for what they are worth. There is no truth in them whatever."

Mr Howard's showdown with the prisons director came in October 1995. He sacked Mr Lewis after the completion of General Sir John Learmont's report into the escape of inmates from Parkhurst jail in January of the same year. The decision reduced Miss Widdecombe to tears.

The night before the dismissal she spoke on the telephone to Mr Wilson the Permament Secretary. Resignation was on her mind. "I told him I was going to buy a cat and issue a press statement saying: 'I am going to spend more time with it'."

Mr Wilson allegedly played on Miss Widdecombe's loyalty to the Prime Minister by telling her that to quit would let down John Major.

Whoever was responsible for the attacks on Miss Widdecombe, the verdict of most Tory MPs yesterday was that Mr Howard was the biggest loser.

"Delivery for a Mr Howard"

Mobile phone users face new charges

By Jill Sherman
Chief Political Correspondent

MOBILE phone users and cab drivers face higher charges for using the radio airwaves under new Bill to be announced in today's Queen's Speech.

The proposals, which are expected to raise more than £1 billion over ten years, will open the airwaves to market forces for the first time and lead to higher charges in busy areas.

Under the Wireless, Telegraphy and Radio Spectrum Bill users, who include radio pager owners, will be charged according to how congested the airwaves are in the areas they choose to use.

Downing Street sources indicated that the additional costs could be the equivalent of 20p a week per car for minicabs and 10p a week for mobile phone users.

Although the price rises are small, officials point out that millions of people would have to pay the extra charge. The sources also said that initially 80 per cent of current users were unlikely to be affected.

Work on the new Bill had begun under the last administration and was the subject of a White Paper last June.

The Queen's Speech will be topped by two education Bills, a referendum Bill for a Scottish Parliament and a Welsh Assembly, and a Bill to introduce a national minimum wage.

The speech will also include a Bill to encourage a huge injection of private sector cash into the NHS. Ministers want to extend the areas where private cash is used as part of joint private and public sector projects to cover services for the mentally ill, GP surgeries and possibly radiotherapy and pathology services.

Cabinet list, page 10

School to pay for race abuse

A leading independent school has agreed to pay compensation and apologise to a pupil from an Asian background who was racially abused by fellow students.

The Dame Allan's School in Newcastle upon Tyne will pay £8,000 in damages and costs to Hytham Hamad, after being threatened with court action .... Page 3

Opera chief quits after four months

Genista McIntosh has resigned as chief executive of the Royal Opera House after only four months because of a stress-related illness.

Mary Allen, currently the secretary-general of the Arts Council of England, will take her place .... Page 5

Rodney Milnes, page 33

Bank signals mortgage rise

By Alasdair Murray

THE Bank of England yesterday confronted homeowners with the prospect of rising mortgage costs in the next few months by making clear that it is ready to use its newly acquired powers to raise interest rates.

The City is predicting that rates could rise from the current 6.25 per cent to as high as 7 per cent by the end of the year. A three-quarter point rise in rates would mean homeowners paying about £40 a month more on an average £50,000 mortgage.

The bank said in its *Quarterly Inflation Report*, the first since it won operational independence, that a "modest tightening" of rates is needed to avoid overshooting the Government's inflation target. But the report also hinted that the Bank wants to see taxes rise in the mini-budget, expected on June 10, to help to take pressure off the soaring pound.

The bank points out that further rate rises would "worsen the imbalance" between the manufacturing sector, which is losing exports because of the strong pound, and the booming service sector.

The hawkish tone of the bank's comments took the City by surprise, prompting the stock market to fall back from a new record high while the pound finished strongly up on the day.

But there is confusion over the possible timing of any rate increases. The four new members of the bank's monetary policy committee, which will set interest rates each month, have not yet been appointed and may disagree with the Bank's analysis.

The first meeting of the new committee is expected ahead of the Budget, but no date has been set.

The bank described last week's quarter-point rise in base rates to 6.25 per cent as an "appropriate step in the right direction". It also welcomed Gordon Brown's reforms, which have given the bank the power to set interest rates.

Britain is set to rejoin Unesco

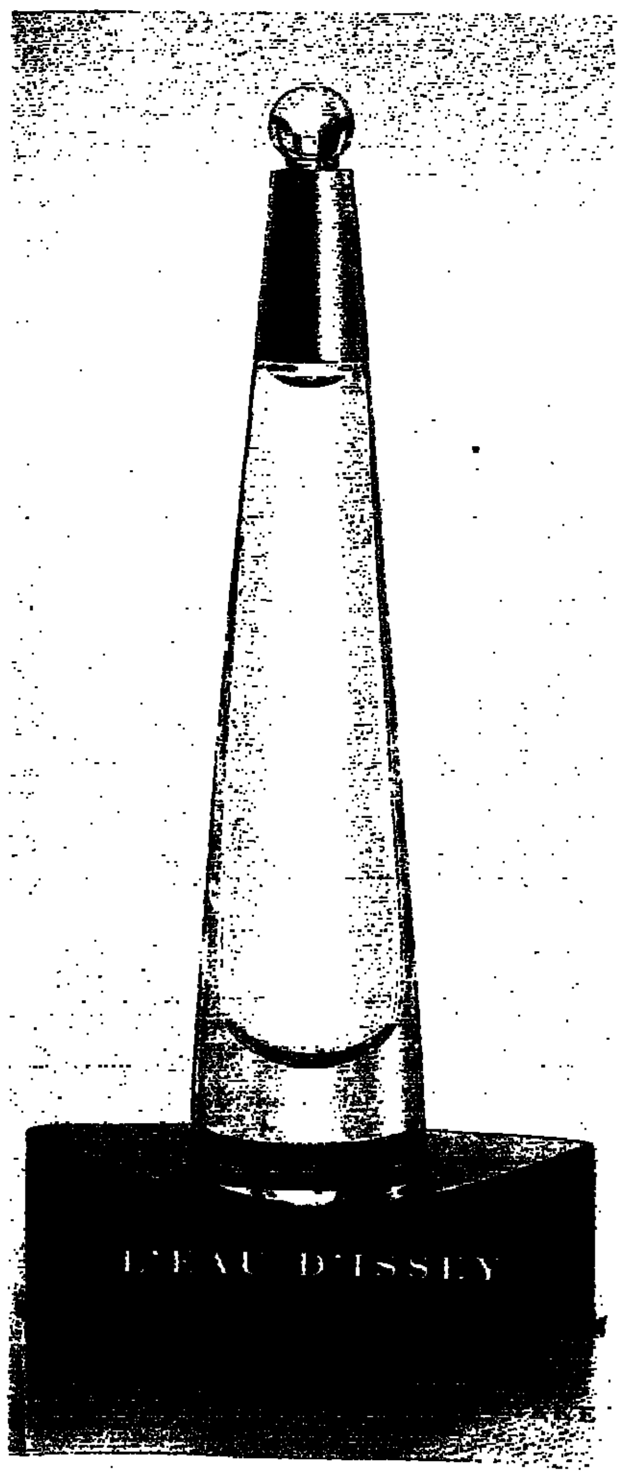
By Michael Binyon and Susan Bell

BRITAIN is to rejoin Unesco, the United Nations educational, scientific and cultural organisation, 12 years after quitting the Paris-based body in protest at mismanagement and corruption.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, made the announcement in Paris during a visit to the Western European Union. Britain's application will be formally unveiled tomorrow in the Queen's Speech, but has already been warmly welcomed by Federico Mayor, Unesco's Director-General. The cost is estimated at £11 million a year.

The objections levelled principally by Western countries to the running of Unesco were directed especially at the former Director-General, Amadou M'Bow, who was accused of cronyism, financial irresponsibility and orchestrating an anti-Western campaign. Britain, America and Singapore left; so far America has given no sign of rejoining.

Señor Mayor, who took over after Mr M'Bow was ousted, promised to reform the organisation and cut back waste. British officials yesterday said that he had made good progress in doing so.



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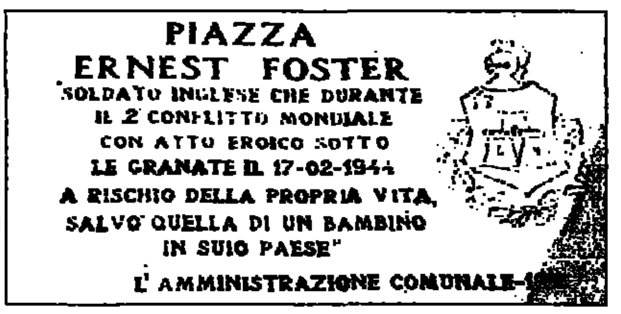
Italians pay tribute to Ernie Foster of Portsmouth

By Alan Hamilton

ROME has its Piazza Victor Emmanuel and Venice its Piazza San Marco. But in the small Italian village of Suio, the main square is about to be renamed the Piazza Ernest Foster.

Italy, being short on 20th century heroes, usually names its streets after kings and saints, or household historic names like Dante, Verdi and Garibaldi. There has been a recent rash of street-naming after Giovanni Falcone, the anti-Mafia judge who was blown up. He is now joined in the municipal pantheon by Ernie from Portsmouth.



PIAZZA
ERNEST FOSTER
"SOLDATO INGLESE CHE DURANTE
IL 2 CONFLITTO MONDIALE
CON ATTO EROICO SOTTO
LE GRANATE IL 17-02-1944
A RISCHIO DELLA PROPRIA VITA,
SALVO QUELLA DI UN BAMBINO
IN SUIO PAESE"
L'AMMINISTRAZIONE COMUNALE

Ernest Foster, the caring soldier, and the Italian village plaque that honours his bravery

Private Foster, who died five years ago, was with the 5th Hampshire Regiment in 1944, when the Allied invasion of Italy reached Suio, a village in the Aurunci mountains near the town of Castelforte, between Naples and Rome. During fierce fighting between Allied and German troops in the village square, he shielded a badly injured woman, who died in his arms. As he lay her body down, he found in her shawl her 18-month-old baby, who had been injured by the bullet that killed his mother. The British soldier ran with the baby half a mile to the nearest British ambulance post and left him there, not knowing whether he would survive.

Alessandro Lefeno did live. Now aged 54 and a postal worker, he is preparing to welcome Private Foster's widow and children to a ceremony in Suio later this month.

At his Italian home yesterday he said: "Ernest was a brave man and his courage deserves to be recognised. The whole village knew what he did for me, and when some work was being carried out on the piazza, the council suggested naming it after him. He

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Blair would be wise not to ride roughshod over Parliament

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

THE Government is showing worrying signs of triumphalism. Tony Blair was widely praised a week ago for telling Labour MPs that "we are not the masters. The people are the masters. We are the servants of the people." But not all his ministers are behaving in this spirit. Some seem to be confusing their executive and their parliamentary roles.

The Government has started with a flourish, launching many fresh initiatives. Boldness has its risks, but ministers are entitled to make their mark quickly.

Gordon Brown has been criticised for making the Bank of England operationally responsible for setting interest rates without telling Parliament first, or obtaining its approval. But given that Mr Brown had to meet Eddie George, the Bank Governor, last week, there was a virtue in taking a quick decision. And the new monetary policy framework will have to be approved by legislation, so Parliament will be involved.

It is also reasonable for Mr Blair to impose a clear strategic framework on Government — to see that manifesto pledges are fulfilled and not undermined by the pressure of events. The problem is over attitudes to Parliament.

Some ministers view MPs as primarily lobby fodder. That obviously suits executive-minded politicians. On the BBC's *On the Record* on Sunday, Peter Mandelson stated bluntly: "Labour Members of Parliament have been elected in order to carry out the manifesto for which we have received an overwhelming mandate from the public."

Mr Mandelson has a point, since Labour's primary task is to show it can be trusted in government, and this imposes a responsibility on Labour MPs not to "impede or present barriers to the implementation of our manifesto". But to claim that the manifesto is "binding" on Labour MPs is an oversimplification.

Manifestos are not perfect and MPs have a duty to see whether Bills can be improved. Labour has rightly proposed improvements in the way Bills are scrutinised. That means that Labour MPs cannot just be unquestioning supporters of the Government.

Ministers have also been rather high-handed over the reform of Prime Minister's Questions, announcing the switch from two sessions a week to one without consultation. This is not just a matter for the Government, as Mr Mandelson suggested on Sunday. The organisation of Question Time is also a matter for the Commons. The Procedure Committee report of July 1995 specifically rejected the idea of one 30-minute session per week and focused on an experiment to replace open questions by substantive ones.

Ann Taylor has said that a new special Select Committee to review parliamentary procedures will shortly be set up and will consider further changes to Question Time, including PM's Questions. It would have been better for the change in timing to be referred to such a committee.

Mr Blair has all the cards at present. But he should not overplay them. He would be wise to be conciliatory when he addresses the Commons this afternoon — both to fulfill his pledge to create a new non-tribal, open style of politics and to show his Government is not riding roughshod over Parliament.

PETER RIDDELL

Catholic man murdered in renewed cycle of violence

By Nicholas Watt, chief Ireland correspondent

ULSTER has returned to the nightmare of tit-for-tat sectarian murders for the first time in three years, with three men dead in as many weeks.

A Roman Catholic man was abducted from a Gaelic Athletic Association club in Bellaghy, Co Londonderry, late on Monday night and shot by loyalists. The murder followed the shooting of a policemen last Friday and the death of a Catholic man last week.

The attacks have horrified political leaders. In the last wave of such attacks in June 1994, six Catholic men were gunned down by loyalists in a country pub in Co Down as they watched the football World Cup. The Ulster Volunteer Force murdered the men purely because they were Catholics, after republicans murdered two Protestants in the Shankill Road.

In the attack on Monday night, Sean Brown, who was married, with six children, was seized by the terrorists as he locked up his GAA club in the village. During a violent struggle, Mr Brown, who was chairman of the club and a pillar of the local community, suffered serious head injuries. He was bundled into his own car. His body was found near the burnt-out remains of his car in Randalstown, Co Antrim, early yesterday.

The carefully orchestrated killing of Mr Brown indicates that he was murdered by one of three loyalist terrorist groups — the Ulster Volunteer Force, the Ulster Defence Association, or the newly-formed Loyalist Volunteer Force.

Brown: chairman of sports club

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, yesterday held talks with the two political parties with links to the UVF and UDA. Speaking after the meeting, Adam Ingram, the Northern Ireland security minister, said that he believed that the loyalist ceasefire was still in place, although he added that ministers would subject the ceasefire to serious analysis. He condemned the murder of Mr Brown as horrific.

Dr Seamus Hegarty, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Derry, described the murder as "vicious and godless".

Archbishop Robin Eames, the Primate of the Church of Ireland, gave a grim warning of the dangers of sectarianism during an address to the General Synod of the church in Dublin. "This is another example of the depths to which this community has sunk. People are talking about a descending curve of sectarianism." He said such attacks were "totally, totally wrong".

Friends last night paid tribute to Mr Brown. Harry Chivers, a member of the GAA's South Derry Committee, said: "Sean was a genuine family man. He put his heart and soul into the club, he gave it his all. He was a mild-mannered man who didn't get into arguments with people."

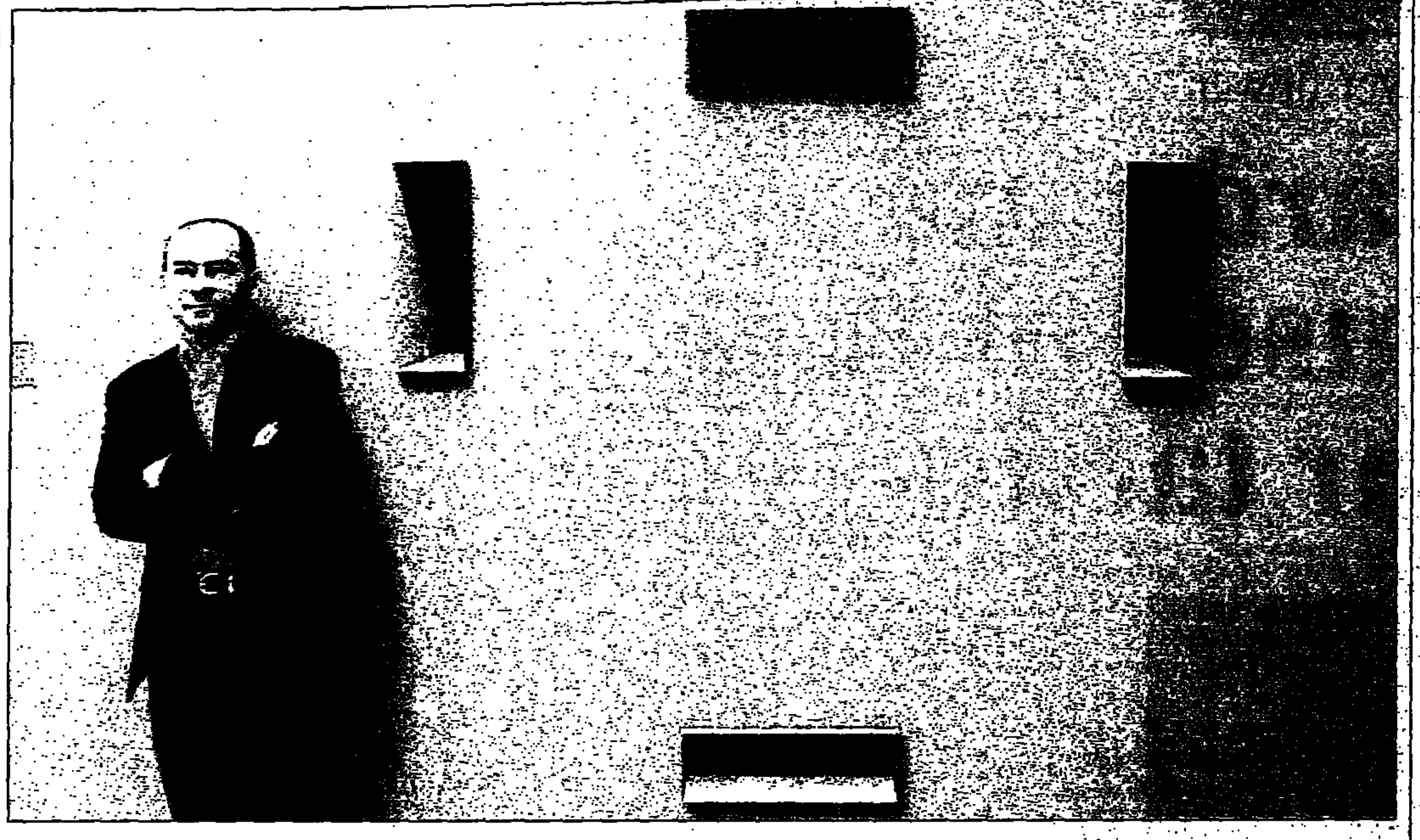
Mr Chivers last spoke to Mr Brown on the pitch in Clones, Co Monaghan, on Sunday after the Derry under-21 team won the All-Ireland final.

As detectives in Randalstown began investigation into Mr Brown's murder, the funeral took place a few miles away in Antrim of Darren Bradshaw, the RUC constable who was shot dead at point blank range on Friday night by the Irish National Liberation Army in a bar in Belfast.

☐ Armed police are standing guard in a hospital in the Irish Republic where a suspected terrorist was receiving treatment after a botched bomb attack in Northern Ireland. The man was admitted to the Sligo General Hospital shortly after an incident in Belfast last week, when only the detonator of a Semtex device went off.

He fled across the border into the Irish Republic where he is being treated for serious burns.

ANTHONY UPTON



Max Mosscrop with four of the abstract paintings that have won him the £26,000 NatWest Art Prize, the country's biggest. Mr Mosscrop, 34, who trained as an architect, received the award at the Lothbury Gallery in the City of London. He was chosen from a shortlist of 11 young painters, including seven women. They were whittled down from 700 entries for the competition, which unlike the Turner Prize, focuses exclusively on painting and is awarded to artists under 35 who live or work in Britain. Last night Mr Mosscrop, from Ormskirk, Lancashire, who is studying at the Royal Academy, said: "It's not really sunk in yet but it will be great to help me set up my own studio." Rosemary Harris, one of the judges and curator of the NatWest Group Art Collection, said they were impressed with the way Mr Mosscrop had drawn on his architectural background and had found his paintings innovative. "We had a really impressive selection of entries, with both abstract and figurative work, but Max is a worthy winner," she said. "The exceptional quality of the work submitted this year is a real sign of the much heralded revival of painting in the 1990s." The ten runners-up received £1,000 each and all 11 have works exhibited in the new Lothbury gallery, opened in the former banking hall of the City headquarters of NatWest.

Artist draws on training as architect to win prize

Blair defies Lords on handgun ban

By Philip Webster, political editor

TONY BLAIR said yesterday that he would override the House of Lords if it tried to stand in the way of Labour's plans to introduce a complete ban on handguns.

The Prime Minister met parents of children who died at Dunblane and told them that, if peers rejected the legislation, as some have threatened, he would invoke the Parliament Act to force it through next year. Under the Act a Bill that has been defeated in the Lords can be reintroduced after 12 months and pushed through, with peers powerless to intervene a second time.

Mr Blair told the parents that Labour would have no hesitation in doing that "if the worst happened" in the Lords. He was clearly using the visit of the Dunblane group on the eve of the Queen's Speech to fire a warning shot at the Upper House. In addition, Downing Street sources indicated that the Bill to deprive hereditary peers of voting rights was likely to be introduced in autumn next year.

The decision to go beyond the firearms legislation introduced by the Tories after Dunblane and bring in a complete ban as soon as possible was Mr Blair's.

It remains highly unlikely that the Lords would — even in perhaps the last year before their own future is transformed — turn down a Bill that appeared in the Labour manifesto and which had been passed by the Commons.

☐ The Advertising Standards Authority said yesterday that it would not succumb to pressure from pro-gun lobby groups. The warning follows the arrival last month of 80 near-identical letters of complaint about an anti-handgun advertisement funded by the Snowdrop campaign.

Ernie the hero

Continued from page 1

was a great man and I owe him my life." Private Foster visited Suio several times after the war, and was a popular figure.

His widow Sylvia, 68, said yesterday: "The Germans were on one side of the piazza and Ern and the English were on the other firing at each other, when this woman ran across the square and got badly wounded. She fell to the ground and Ern ran up to try to help her. He tried to move her but couldn't. As she breathed her last breath her shawl fell open, and he saw she was holding a baby boy."

Mrs Foster said that, after taking the baby to a field station, he returned and managed to find the father, who gave him a battered and broken St Christopher necklace, which Ernie treasured and kept with his medals for the rest of his life.

Mr Foster tracked down the baby — by then aged 46 — during a visit to Italy in 1986. The families became friends, and Mr Lefeno attended Ernie's funeral in 1992.

Lilley and Dorrell urge party revamp

By Philip Webster, political editor

PETER LILLEY supported calls yesterday for party activists to have a vote in future Tory leadership elections.

The former Social Security Secretary also tried to enhance his claims to be the unity candidate in the present leadership contest by emphasising that his opposition to the European single currency applied to the lifetime of the present Parliament and not necessarily forever.

Both Mr Lilley and Stephen Dorrell, the former Health Secretary, put a revamp of party organisation at the centre of their campaign efforts. Mr Lilley said: "The decay of our organisation was a key factor which contributed to the scale of our defeat. . . . We will only win if we invigorate the party. We can only attract young, energetic, intelligent people to our party if we are going to involve them in it. They've got to feel they are involved in rather more than the colour of the balloons at the Conservative fete."

He called for a national register of members to be drawn up to enable more direct communication between the party at Westminster and its supporters in the constituencies. But he said it it was no possible to do so in time to give all members a vote in this contest.

Mr Dorrell promised, if elected, to review the way the party worked — including the system by which it elects a leader. In a letter to constituency party chairmen he said the overhaul needed to include the operation of Conservative Central Office, candidate selection and "internal party discipline". He said: "One inescapable lesson of our general election defeat is that, for the first time, our opponents were better organised and more disciplined."

Union chief wants £4 as minimum

The unions will demand a minimum wage of no less than £4 an hour, Bill Morris, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, told business leaders yesterday (writes Philip Bassett). He said that the movement would expect the new Labour Government to introduce that rate.

Businesses, led by the Confederation of British Industry, are urging that the minimum wage should be no higher than £3.50, but unions such as the TGWU have been reaching deals with individual companies for minimum rates of £4 an hour. Mr Morris, speaking in Cardiff, for the first time explicitly translated that industrial target into a political objective for the minimum wage level.

Water summit

The Government is to hold a summit to discuss the water shortage facing the country. Representatives from the water industries, environmental agencies and consumer groups are expected to attend the summit in London on Monday. The first four months this year were the driest since 1929, according to the London Weather Centre.

Woolf plea

Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, urged the Lord Chancellor last night not to allow a review to halt the radical reforms now underway to cut the cost and delay of civil litigation. In the Gee lecture to the Royal College of Physicians he said: "The civil justice system has become excessively adversarial, slow, complex and expensive."

Nepal boy claim

The Nepalese boy whose deportation order was overturned by the Home Secretary Jack Straw will go to the High Court today to fight for an estimated £20,000 in costs from the Government. Jaya Ram Khadka's adoptive English father, Richard Morley, said it was a "matter of principle" that the courts should award costs.

Riders' truce

Twenty women became the first lady riders in more than 60 years to join Hawick Common Riding. They were outnumbered two to one by men, but their participation in the 26-mile cross-country ride, accompanied by a strong police presence, marked a truce in the year-long dispute with the Lady Riders' Association over the men-only rule.

War no longer priority, says Robertson

By Michael Evans
defence correspondent

THE new Defence Secretary, George Robertson, indicated yesterday that he saw peacekeeping, not fighting wars, as the priority for the Armed Forces.

It was important to have the "most appropriate defence" for the country, and one problem that no longer needed to be taken into account was "a general war in Europe", he said. "The problems faced are peacekeeping in Bosnia, the evacuation of national personnel in Zaire and a whole series of other conflicts all over the world that are very different from the past," he said on BBC Radio 4's *Today*.

The Government will announce a six-month strategic defence review in the Queen's Speech today. It will involve the Foreign Office and the Treasury as well as the Ministry of Defence, and Mr Robertson is also expected to ask experts from the industrial and academic worlds to participate in the review.

Mr Robertson said the review would not be "Treasury-run", and indicated an intention to maintain spending at the present level, about £21.8 billion. But he said the review would be "all-embracing . . . and will try to build a national consensus about what the country needs".

The expectation among the Armed Forces was that the review will lead to a reduction in commitments that will bring budget savings. There was particular alarm among the sole surviving overseas-based armoured division, which is in Germany.

Forces chiefs are expected to use the argument put to the previous Government: that, despite the changed world, it is still vital to train and equip the Services for high-intensity wars. "You can peacekeep if you have trained for war, but you can't fight a war if you have only trained to peacekeep," a source said.

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Staff 'ignored violent bullying'

Private school in race payout to abused pupil

By Paul Wilkinson

A LEADING independent school yesterday agreed to pay compensation and apologise to a pupil who was racially abused by fellow students.

The Dame Allan's School in Newcastle upon Tyne has agreed to pay £4,000 in damages and a similar amount in costs to Hytham Hamad, the son of a hospital consultant, after being threatened with a High Court action.

Yesterday, after the agreed settlement was announced, Hytham, whose father is Asian, said that the abuse had become more frequent and severe as he rose through the school. A complaint by his father was ignored and at one point, he claimed, staff had stood by while older boys kicked him around a playing field.

When he finally retaliated and punched one of the sixthformers who had been abusing him, he was accused of making trouble and was suspended. A letter describing him as "dangerous" was sent to parents and his family was told to remove him or see him expelled. After his parents agreed to remove him, they decided to take action against the £3,783-a-year day school.

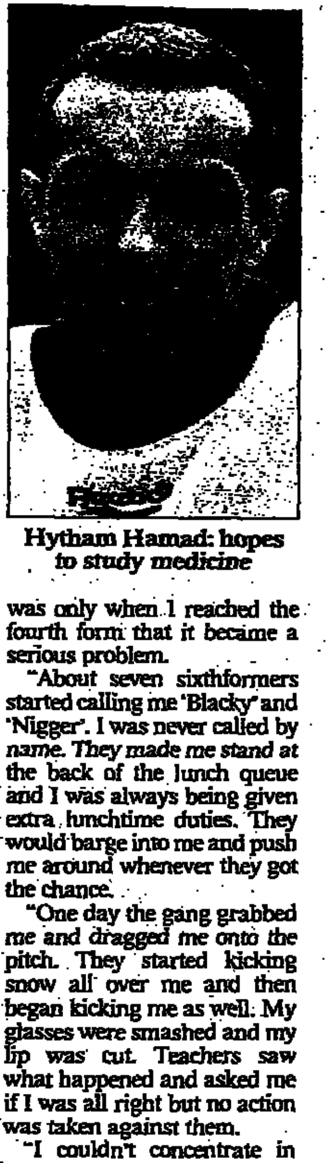
Hytham, now 18, is completing his A-level studies at a state college near his home in Sunderland, and hopes to study medicine. He said: "I could not take any more and knew if I did not act to try and stop it it would go on forever. I decided to make a stand, so I attacked a sixthformer who had been abusing me.

"I hate violence but I had suffered months of daily abuse. I had suffered the occasional remark from my first days but I shrugged it off: it was only when I reached the fourth form that it became a serious problem.

"About seven sixthformers started calling me 'Blacky' and 'Nigger'. I was never called by name. They made me stand at the back of the lunch queue and I was always being given extra lunchtime duties. They would barge into me and push me around whenever they got the chance.

"One day the gang grabbed me and dragged me onto the pitch. They started kicking snow all over me and then began kicking me as well. My glasses were smashed and my lip was cut. Teachers saw what happened and asked me if I was all right but no action was taken against them.

"I couldn't concentrate in class and got up every morning knowing the treatment I was going to get as soon as I arrived at school."


Hytham Hamad: hopes to study medicine

His father, Ahmed, 53, said: "We did not expect to find an intimidating atmosphere of racial bullying at a place like Dame Allan. I felt the discipline at a public school with such a high reputation would be so much better than that.

"Hytham bottled up his feelings for a long time before he finally told us what was happening to him. I was shocked and appalled. When he snapped and defended himself he was suspended indefinitely, when the people who had put him through all that abuse escaped without so much as a warning."

Hytham's mother, Eileen, 53, who is white, said: "Hytham has come through it and feels it might have made him a better person." Sir Herman Ouseley, chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality, which backed the case, welcomed the apology.

In a statement, David Welsh, the school's principal, said: "Since joining here last September I have not seen any evidence of the tensions or strains of three years ago. This settlement draws a line under those events and has enabled the school to recognise the need to address major issues such as equal oportunities.

"The settlement included a letter of apology to the Hamad family from the governors. The letter intended to show it had always been our intention to act in an impartial and even-handed manner in respect of the incident which happened in January 1994. The school accepts, with hindsight, there were shortcomings and failings in the manner in which investigations were undertaken. " There were now new procedures to deal with racist abuse or bullying.

ALBAN DONOHOE

Mrs Shreeve with her Yorkshire terrier after she paid £100 for its return. "I was lucky because I got Fudge back."

Family pay ransom for pedigree pet

A FAMILY had to pay a £100 ransom for the safe return of their pedigree puppy after it was stolen from their front garden.

The seven-month old Yorkshire terrier, Fudge, whose ancestors include a Cruft's champion, was held by his captors for a week. It is thought he was stolen to be bred: pedigree Yorkshire terrier puppies usually sell for around £200.

The dog's distraught owner, Maria Shreeve, put up posters of her pet all around Norwich after he went missing. After a week, in which Mrs Shreeve believes Fudge was probably bred at least three times, the ransom demand came.

"The phone never stopped ringing with sightings, and two days later the woman came round and said she knew where Fudge was," Mrs Shreeve said.

"She gave us the address and we told the police. They went round to the house where Fudge was supposed to be, but he had obviously been hidden away. We did not see the woman again until the following Saturday, when she came round to say that she could get Fudge for £100."

Mrs Shreeve, 30, and her husband Mark, 28, a mechanic, were appalled by the demand and at first refused.

"But then this woman said that if we did not pay up we would never see Fudge again. We scraped together all the money we had, borrowed some, and made up the ransom with all the coppers we could find. But I said 'how do we know that we will get Fudge back?' In the end we gave this woman £50 and said she could have the rest when she came back with Fudge. It was taking a risk but we had no choice."

Twenty minutes later the woman arrived back at the house in Mile Cross with Fudge, and the other £50 was handed over. "To be honest I was so pleased to have Fudge back. I didn't care about anything else. I have spoiled him rotten since," said Mrs Shreeve, a care assistant.

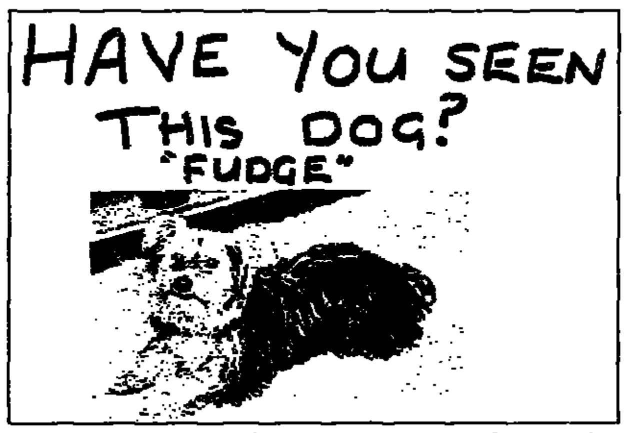
"He had obviously been bred and we took him to a vet who confirmed that. He was whining and he had never done that before. If he has been bred three times the people who took him have obviously done all right out of it. That is why they relented and gave him back."

Mrs Shreeve bought Fudge for £150 pounds after replying to an advert from a reputable breeder.

She said: "I was lucky because I got Fudge back, but I am sure there could be other people who will lose their pets."

She now plans to have Fudge electronically tagged for identification and castrated to prevent him being stolen for breeding purposes.

A spokesman for Norfolk police said: "We would encourage anyone faced with a similar situation to contact us immediately."



The poster that the Shreeves put up around Norwich

Warning to golf lovers who eat their greens

By Ian Murray
Medical Correspondent

DOCTORS have identified a new hazard for golfers — golf ball liver. It has nothing to do with spending too long at the 19th but a lot to do with lining up a putt on the greens.

The first known victim of what is medically known as "agent orange hepatitis" is Michael Burke, 76, former captain of the Rosses Point Club in Sligo, Ireland.

"I used to play every day but I had to stop when I got tired and terribly ill," he said yesterday. "I am not teetotal, but I am certainly not a heavy drinker and I had not been abroad where I could have caught hepatitis. It was a mystery until the hospital sent a sample for analysis at a laboratory where they specialise in poisons. They discovered that the trouble was caused by a weedkiller.

"It was then that I remembered I had got into the habit of wetting the ball on my tongue to clean it on the greens. The golf club uses a selective weedkiller, especially on the greens, and I had been licking it off in small quantities and swallowing it."

The weedkiller was 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid, an ingredient of the defoliant known as Agent Orange which was used by US forces in Vietnam.

The case history appears today in *Gut*, a specialist publication issued by the *British Medical Journal*. Written by the victim's son, Dr Conor Burke, of James Connolly Memorial Hospital, Dublin, it says that "golf ball liver is a definite clinical entity and golfers should beware".

Mr Burke contracted the condition ten years ago and has recovered. When he returned to the greens he used a damp cloth instead of his tongue.

Kirsty: murder inquiry

Girl's body is found in Thames

POLICE launched a murder investigation yesterday after the decapitated body of Kirsty Tidman, 14, was pulled from the Thames. She was identified by jewellery.

Kirsty vanished on May 4 from her home at Charlton, south London. Her parents last week appealed publicly for help in finding her and begged whoever had taken their daughter to let her go. Her body was spotted in the river early yesterday near Wapping in Dockands.

Last week Kirsty's cousin, Paul Pearson, 30, from Abbey Wood, south London, killed himself after being questioned by police. He had denied any involvement in her disappearance.

Servicemen face cane for 'robbery'

By Andrew Drummond, in Thailand, and Adrian Lee

TWO British servicemen could face at least 12 strokes of the cane in Singapore and 14 years in prison for allegedly robbing a taxi driver.

Royal Marine Richard Britten, 22, and helicopter mechanic John King, 20, were on shore leave from the Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessel *Galahad* after spending a month on jungle exercises when they were arrested in the early hours of the morning.

The incident, the second in the Far East this month involving soldiers from the Royal Marines, has infuriated their commanding officers. A Royal Marines source said yesterday: "We are not treating this as a minor incident."

The soldiers, who could be dismissed from the service if found guilty, were warned during briefings before leaving England to observe local customs and laws. Before going on leave they were reminded that Singapore was particularly strict. They were among thousands of army and navy personnel taking part in a major deployment in the Far East, codenamed Ocean Wave.

The men left Britain in January and were due home in August after exercises in Thailand, Brunei, Singapore and Malaysia.

Details of the incident, at 3.40am on May 3, were vague, said an MoD spokesman who refused to name the men's units or give any personal details. They appeared in court on Monday accused of stealing 43 Singapore dollars — about £19 — from taxi driver Tong Chin Huat, 53, in a western suburb of the city state. No pleas were taken and the soldiers will reappear on May 20. Army sources said there was no suggestion that any violence was used.

The pair were being held at the Queenstown Remand Centre after failing to provide £4,000 for bail. King is on a two-year attachment to the Marines from the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, while Swindon-born Britten was based at Yeovilton, in Somerset.

The corporal punishment is carried out on bare buttocks by a martial arts expert wielding a four foot rattan cane. The victim is routinely left unable to sit for several months and is scarred for life. The caning is so ferocious that the rattan, which is soaked in antiseptic, normally splits after three strokes.

Paralysed Superman star says he has regained 'some feeling'

From Tunku Varadarajan
in New York

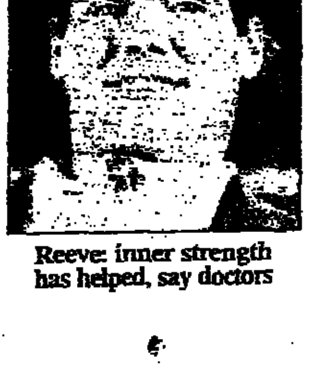
CHRISTOPHER REEVE has astonished his doctors by revealing that he has regained "some feeling" in his arms, hands and back.

Mr Reeve, the former film Superman, was paralysed from the neck down two years ago after he was thrown by a horse. His tragedy drew pity from around the world, turning to admiration as he became a tenacious ambassador for the disabled.

That tenacity, it seems, has paid off. In a television programme to be shown by CBS here tomorrow, Mr Reeve discloses that he has sensation "all the way down to the base of my spine, which is really a breakthrough because six months ago I couldn't feel down there".

Doctors had told him only recently that his injury was "definitive" and that there would be no further recovery. Harlan Weinberg, who has been treating the actor, told the *New York Post* that the news was "phenomenal". Dr Weinberg said: "He has an incredible inner strength and more personal drive than any individual I've met. That has a lot to do with it."

Mr Reeve also tells the interviewer that his progress is momentous because he can once more feel the touch of his five-year-old son, Will: "I can feel his hand on mine. . . . The thing I want more, though, is to be able to put my arms around him. And I believe that day is coming."


Reeve: inner strength has helped, say doctors

☐ Christopher Reeve's determination to over come his disability has been rewarded (*Dr Thomas Stuttaford* writes). If the spinal cord is completely severed regeneration does not occur. But prognosis is a very inexact art and doctors are unwise to be too definite about an outcome in any case until many months have elapsed.

Having even a limited sense of touch is an invaluable way of creating and maintaining emotional bonds within a family.

But as yet there seems to be little or no recent recovery in Mr Reeve's muscle power. Any real improvement in physical activity must at this stage be considered very unlikely.

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March 31, the group had £12 billion under management.

ber 31. The shares closed up 7½p to 75p.

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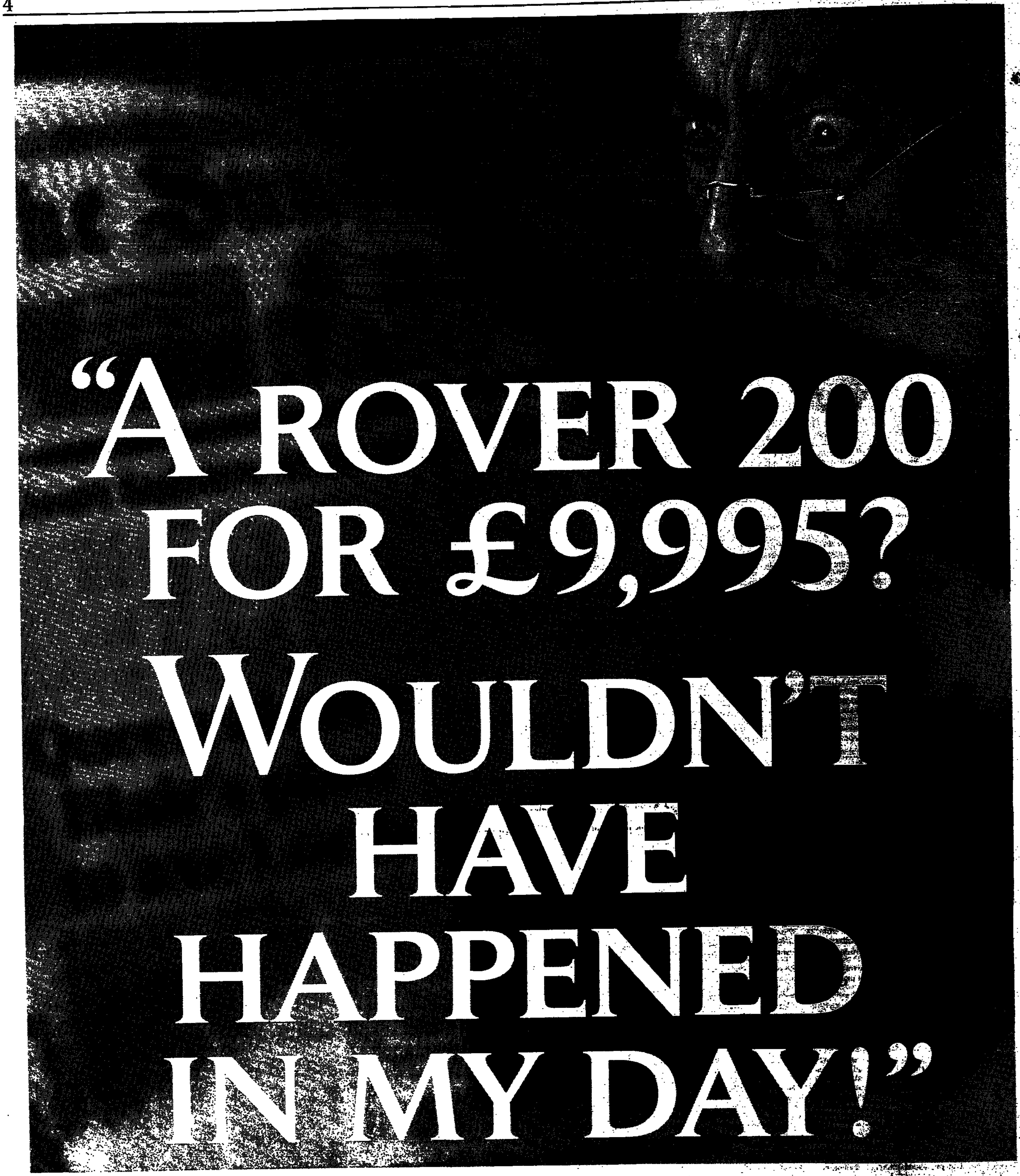

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Royal Opera chief resigns after four months

McIntosh: resignation

By Carol Midgley

GENISTA McINTOSH has resigned as chief executive of the Royal Opera House after only four months in the job because of a stress-related illness, it was announced yesterday.

Mary Allen, currently the secretary-general of the Arts Council of England, will take the place of Ms McIntosh, 50, who took over from Sir Jeremy Isaacs in January.

Keith Cooper, spokesman for the Royal Opera House, declined to elaborate on the nature of Ms McIntosh's illness but said: "It is not a life-threatening illness, but it is such that she does not feel that she can do the job without being in the best of health and having a lot of stamina." He added that the chief executive's was "an extremely complex and demanding job", managing 800 employees and an annual turnover of £57 million.

Ms McIntosh has been at Covent Garden during a period of turmoil: the Royal Opera and the Royal Ballet are soon to leave Covent Garden for two-and-a-half years while a £214 million renovation is carried out. They will perform at other venues including the Festival Hall, the Albert Hall and the Barbican.

The Earl of Gowrie, the chairman of the Arts Council, has described the plans for the absence from Covent Garden as "shambolic". Many star dancers are expected to quit. Recently backstage staff threatened industrial action over claims for touring allowances for working in temporary venues.

The announcement that Ms McIntosh had resigned because of illness was greeted with astonishment and scepticism among Covent Garden staff. There was speculation that there had been a falling-out between her and the chairman of the Royal Opera House, Lord Chadlington. The Opera House denied that there had been any rift.

Lord Chadlington said yesterday: "Jenny has made, even in these very few months, an enormous contribution to the Royal Opera House. Her work on budgeting and programming for closure has been outstanding, and her leadership in setting a new agenda in preparation for the new theatre has done much to lift morale and provide a visionary focus for the management.

"I, and all my colleagues, wish her a speedy return to full healthy and much success and happiness in the future."

Miss Allen, who has worked as an actress and an arts management consultant but has no experience in running a leading theatre, is to head the senior management throughout the closure period.

Lord Chadlington added: "We are all delighted that Mary Allen has been able to make such a quick decision. She is one of the best arts managers in the country and we are extremely fortunate that she is able to join the Royal Opera House just as it, too, embarks on a period of change."

☐ Richard Hall, a partner of Binder Hamlyn, has been appointed director of finance at the Royal Opera House after a nine-month search. Lisa Burger, acting finance director, leaves in the summer.

Rodney Milnes, page 33

Allen: replacement

Boy, 9, takes the stage to save theatre from drink

By Dareh Gregorian

THE oratory of a boy aged nine helped to save a theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon. Timothy James received applause from councillors and officials after he spoke out against a plan to convert the Waterside Theatre into a pub.

He learnt of the proposal when he attended a performance of *A Man for All Seasons* at the 120-seat theatre last month.

"I thought it was disgraceful that there should be a plan to turn the last independent theatre in Stratford into a pub," said Timothy, from Coventry.

He and his mother, Tammy, 36, were invited to a meeting of Stratford District Council's planning committee. The boy stood before the 11-strong committee and told them: "I object to this proposal because, although the Royal Shakespeare Company is an excellent theatre, not everyone can afford it. The Waterside is cheaper.

"It is the only proper theatre that local schools can hire for plays. If the theatre goes it will never come back and my children won't have the same chance that I had. Finally, aren't there enough pubs in Stratford already? Thank you." The recommendation to grant planning permission was defeated.

Timothy said yesterday: "I was nervous but I want to be an actor and so I bit my lip and walked in front of them. When only three people voted for the plan and it was turned down, I was very happy."

Geoffrey Lees, the councillor who tabled the motion to reject the plan, said he had been enthralled by the "brave young chap". "Timmy brought home to the committee the strength of feeling in the town."

The theatre thanked the boy and said "he has a great future in front of him, as an actor or a politician".

Minister returns to the director's chair

Dalya Alberge in Cannes meets a former amateur film-maker with a political mission

BRITAIN's first Minister for Film made a nostalgic return yesterday to the Cannes Film Festival, where more than two decades ago he entered a short film in the amateur festival.

In 1973 Tom Clarke tried to excite film-makers with *Give Us A Goal*, about football in Scotland. Yesterday the film-makers were coming to him. The Minister for Film and Tourism will be meeting dozens of them to discuss the Government's role in the industry.

Mr Clarke could not remember whether his film had been shown. This time things were different and he posed like a starlet on the sandy beach as he met the press.

He took the opportunity to attack the treatment by cinemas of disabled people, whose cause had been his brief as a shadow minister. They were made to feel like lepers if they tried to see a film, he said. No wheelchairs, for example, were allowed in cinemas; fire regulations were conveniently blamed. Yet seven million people in Britain were disabled.

"I want to see access in every sense," Mr Clarke said. That meant everything from being able to see films to being employed in making and distributing them.

Mr Clarke said that he would devote himself to the renaissance of the British film industry. "The success we've seen for British film has not been because of the Government, but in spite of them," he said, promising change.

This was passionate, fighting talk from a politician, something that film-makers have not heard for years. It was such a contrast to Stephen Dorrell, who will always be thought of as the Heritage Secretary who could not remember the last film he had seen.

Mr Clarke, the MP for Coatbridge and Chryston, says that the cinema is one of his earliest loves, and he is no stranger to the industry: he is a former governor of the British Film Institute and a former director of the Scottish Film Council.

At one film-maker's stand, where he was handed a video of an "action film", there was a plea for tax incentives for the film industry. "I like what you're saying", he replied. "I do hear you."

His enthusiasm was making an impression. He also revealed a less-than-confident side rarely seen among politicians when, just after addressing the press, he whispered to his two aides: "Was I all right?"

☐ Dolly the sheep and other cloned creatures are inspiring film-makers to conduct their own experiments with the subject. James Dudelson, a Hollywood producer-director, is at Cannes to launch *Morella*, based on an Edgar Allen Poe tale of a scientist who reproduces herself in a bizarre experiment with an embryo.

Mr Dudelson said that, while the scientist apparently succeeds in playing God with her own evolution, the moral is that "the soul cannot be cloned". Over the next couple years, audiences can expect numerous films cloned from the same idea.

They will include *Johnny 2.0*, starring Jeff Sahey, who appeared opposite Pierce Brosnan in *Lawnmower Man*. David Carson, vice-president of ?romark International, its Los Angeles producers, said that "cloning has become a very pertinent subject". His film centres on a scientist who is "a clone of a clone of a clone".

ANDRE CAMARA

Tom Clarke at Cannes yesterday: he plans to work for the renaissance of British film

Serenity finds peace at last in her subterranean world

Serenity: Cannes debut

DOWN in the basement of the main building of the festival, there is no glitter — just buyers and sellers, and photographs to entice the eye. This is where the porn industry does much of its multimillion-pound business (Dalya Alberge writes).

Stand after stand is lined with glossy pictures of women with bodies so exaggerated they must have been inflated by bicycle-pumps: neither nature nor silicone could possibly have shaped them that way.

Bodies, stretched into the most contorted positions and entwined around other bodies — girls with girls and girls with boys — entice buyers to watch the video. Sellers continue to talk about their products even through the most explicit, conversation-stopping scenes.

At the stand for Wicked Pictures of California, a porn queen called Serenity was making her debut at the festival yesterday. As the company's new "contract girl" — with her own fan club on the Internet — she will make six films this year, adding to the estimated 7,200 porn movies produced each year in the United States alone.

Serenity, 27, from Las Vegas, said she was initially reticent about the job: her image of the industry was of "scummy people and terrible things that happen to the girls". But it wasn't like that, she insisted.

This was her fifth year in a career that her family would not have chosen for her. For the first three years, she did only "girl-girl" films. "Now I do boy-girl and girl-girl."

Steven Vlottes, of Wicked Pictures, said that the stars, who tended to be gay, were able to choose their leading men or women. Girls who were new to the business do not have that luxury. They can expect to be paid from £250 for a sex scene to £6,000 a day. Serenity said that bigger productions, with "a lot of dialogue", could take up to a week. "When you are involved in making the movies, you're thinking finances. It's not a sexual experience," Mr Vlottes said.

He emphasised that Wicked Pictures' products did not involve "the bad stuff". He said that he was shocked by some of the films made for the markets in Germany, Spain and France.

Thieving bibliophile is brought to book

By A Staff Reporter

A BOOK lover who could not bear seeing antiquarian volumes mouldering on shelves was unable to stop himself from stealing them to restore at home.

James Coleman, 66, stole 83 antiquarian books worth £12,000 from one country house alone. He took them in as animal lovers might adopt a stray, Swindon magistrates were told.

Coleman, a retired professional violinist, had taken books over eight years from Phillips House in south Wiltshire during annual music courses. He had also stolen books worth nearly £1,000 from other country houses, libraries and shops around the country.

Richard Griffiths, for the defence, said that, while Coleman had amassed most of his big collection legitimately, "unfortunately he could not look at an old book without feeling a need to care for it".

Many of the books at Phillips House were in a poor condition and it all started when he removed some for inspection. He had a number of them restored but then could not return them.

Mr Griffiths said: "The comparison is with the sort of person who comes across a stray dog that hasn't been cared for, takes it in, but then gets attached to it and realises that he shouldn't have taken it in the first place."

The thefts came to light when Coleman and his wife moved to a smaller house and tried to sell his entire collection through a dealer.

Coleman, of Lacock, Wiltshire, who admitted theft and deception, was fined £1,750. Some books had been recovered but he was ordered to pay £3,469 compensation to the National Trust, owner of Phillips House, and £3,555 to a bookseller and other losers.

Paisley celebrates Elvis MacPresley

By Shirley English

QUEEN VICTORIA could soon be deposed by the King if Elvis Presley fans in Paisley are successful in their plans to commemorate the town's newly discovered descendant.

A proposal to replace the Queen's 50-year-old statue outside the town hall with a life-sized model of the gyrating Presley is one of the suggestions put forward after it emerged last month that one of his forebears was a Paisley blacksmith who emigrated in 1745. Presley's Scottish roots were disclosed by Bill Burk, an American, in his new book, *Early Elvis: The Tupelo Years*.

Debate has reached such a pitch that Jim Mitchell, an SNP councillor and Elvis fan, will suggest to Renfrewshire council tomorrow that a cross-party Elvis Presley subcommittee be set up in an effort to come to a decision. He believes that Paisley should seize its golden opportunity to promote itself as "true Elvis country". Ending Queen Victoria's reign in the town centre was something "worth considering", he added. Less controversial options include twinning Paisley with Memphis.

But the Elvis link has not pleased everyone. Nancy Allison, the council provost, said that deposing Queen Victoria would make the town a laughing stock. Another councillor said: "It is like replacing the Trafalgar Square lions with the Spice Girls. The whole thing's ridiculous."

Cambridge pays a rare honour to woman graduate after 80-year wait

AT THE age of 104 Molly Maxwell can finally put "BA Hons" after her name — 80 years after sitting her finals at Cambridge. Wearing a black gown, she was presented with her degree during celebrations to mark her birthday yesterday.

Mrs Maxwell left Newnham College in 1917, when women received only an honours certificate. They were not allowed to receive degrees and become members of the university until 1948.

Mrs Maxwell, who read German and English, is thought to be Cambridge's oldest living graduate. "It's a great surprise. I'll hang it on the wall. I worked very hard for it," she said after receiving the degree from Dr Gillian Sutherland, a fellow of the college.

Champagne corks popped during the ceremony, after which Dr Sutherland said: "Today we have completed the process properly. It is very good to see the translation of this hard-earned certificate."

Women who graduated before 1948 can apply to translate their certificate to a degree. This was undertaken only this year when staff at Mrs Maxwell's nursing home in Golders Green, north London, decided to do something special for their oldest resident.

Mrs Maxwell's husband, who died about 30 years ago, was a graduate of Trinity College, Cambridge, as was one of her sons.

Her daughter Margaret, a graduate of Oxford, watched the ceremony yesterday. Miss Maxwell, 74, said: "It has been very overwhelming for mother, but we are very pleased for her."

Mrs Maxwell was also presented with a silk scarf which is based on part of the ceiling in Newnham College library. The limited edition silk scarf was a gift from the college.

Mrs Maxwell as a student and on her birthday yesterday

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Fire report attacks errors, delays and management weaknesses, but spares wagon design

Tunnel inquiry is criticised over open-sided trains

Arthur Leathley reports on continuing fears about the safety of the Channel Tunnel freight shuttle service

EUROTUNNEL must introduce a wide range of Channel Tunnel safety checks and new equipment before being allowed to restart the freight shuttle service suspended after last year's fire.

A critical report into the tunnel fire listed a string of errors, avoidable delays and management weaknesses by the Channel Tunnel operators that were exposed by last November's blaze.

However, the long-awaited report itself came under attack for failing to recommend the abolition of trains that have been widely criticised for enabling fire and fumes to spread more quickly.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, was among those voicing fears over the open-sided trains. Fire service leaders also said that closed carriages, such as those used on the car shuttle, were needed.

The report by the Channel Tunnel Safety Authority expresses concern at the speed at which fire spread through the freight train. But it does not meet firefighters' demands for closed wagons to be made compulsory.

Mr Prescott, who oversees the Transport Department, voiced his fears about the design of the wagons and made clear that his concerns will be aired when the French and British Governments decide on resumption of freight shuttle services.

"I know there are concerns, which I share, regarding the design of the freight wagons and Eurotunnel's operation procedures for them," he said. "The Inter-Governmental Commission [the Anglo-French body administering the tunnel] will be considering these points and I shall be instructing the UK's representative to reflect my concerns."

The design of freight trains using the tunnel has concerned many fire service chiefs, including Jeremy Beech, the Kent county fire officer who is a member of the safety authority. He repeated his anxieties yesterday, although he acknowledged that there were other safety worries attached to having closed wagons.

Safety experts have given warning that heavier, closed wagons are more likely to derail. Eurotunnel says that it could not run a freight service with closed wagons, as used on car shuttles.

The wide-ranging criticisms contained in the report will force Eurotunnel to introduce many safety changes before it is allowed to resume the freight shuttle service suspended after the fire.

Eurotunnel hopes to begin trial freight services before restarting its commercial service next month. However, the safety authority said yesterday that it would advise against resumption of the service unless Eurotunnel agreed to implement the main recommendations. The authority will advise the Anglo-French commission, which will decide whether to allow the freight service to restart.

The safety authority report said that the battle to save passengers' lives during the Channel Tunnel blaze was disrupted by confusion, management weakness and staff inexperience. Breakdowns in communication, inadequate training and failure to treat the fire seriously led to serious delays as members of staff tried to cope with the first major incident to hit the tunnel.

The fire broke out after a lorry entering the tunnel from France caught light, leading to a rapid spread of smoke and fumes through much of the freight shuttle train. Although the fire seriously damaged 600 metres of tunnel and took more than nine hours to control, the report states that it could have been far more serious if the blaze had broken out at the front of the train.

The highly critical report levels charges at the highest management levels at Eurotunnel and demands a list of improvements before heavy-goods vehicles will be allowed to resume their use of its services.

The report says that the fire on November 18 exposed "fundamental weaknesses" in the safety system, although the authority had earlier passed procedures as adequate. A separate report into the cause of the fire is expected later this week from a French judicial inquiry team.

Yesterday's 68-page report published in English and French says that the safety procedures were hindered by over-complex emergency procedures and inadequately-trained staff. The authority made 36 recommendations to ensure there would be no repetition of an incident that led to 30 lorry drivers needing hospital treatment after being trapped in a fume-filled compartment.

Although security staff reported flames up to 6ft high on the freight shuttle train as it entered the tunnel, five out of the first six fire detectors in the tunnel gave only unconfirmed alarms, and detectors on the train did not give an early alarm.

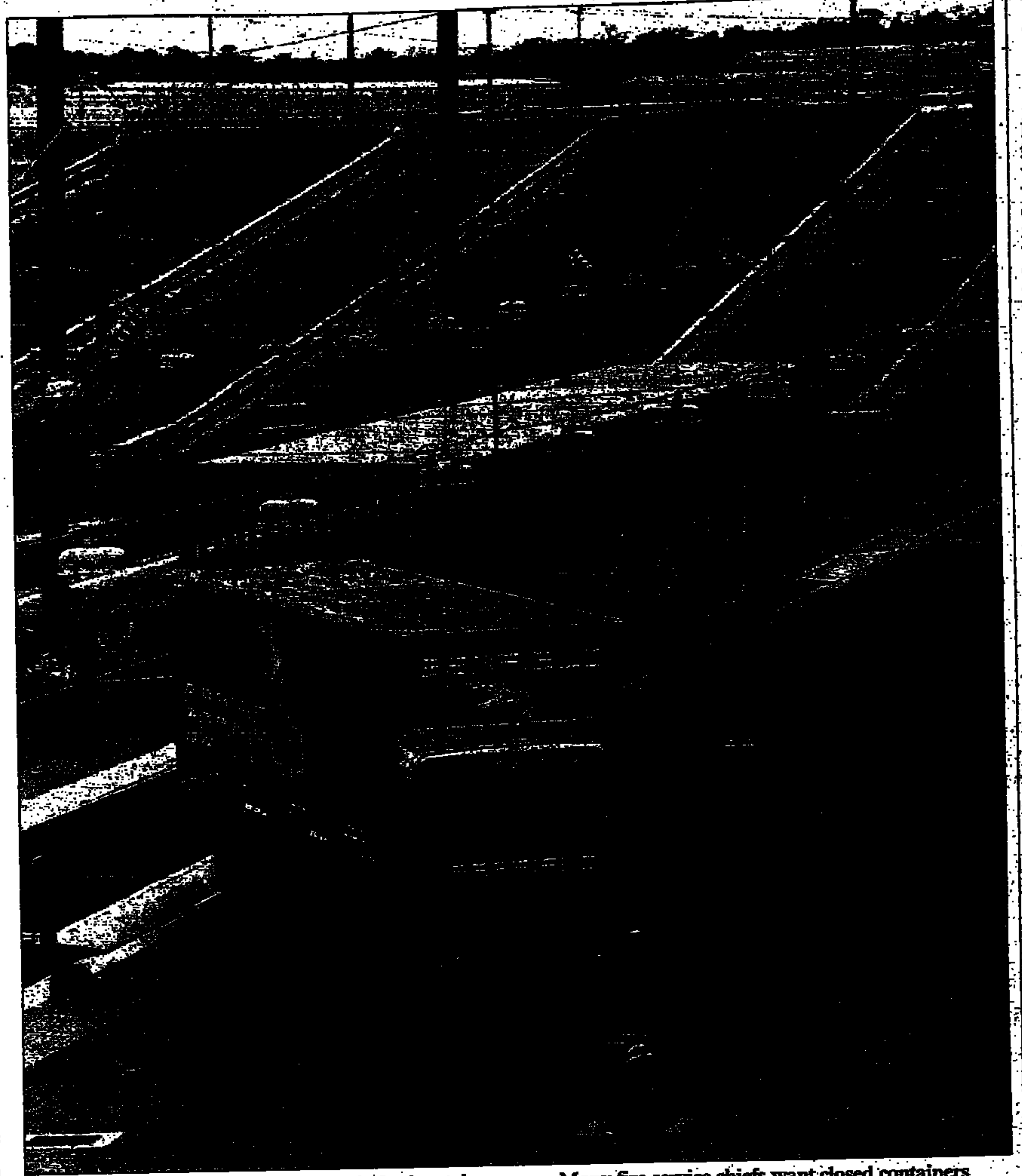
The report comments that Eurotunnel did not have an immediate warning of "what was a significant developing fire". Further communication problems occurred as the fire worsened and rail control centre staff were "submerged in an overload of information and alarms". These staff failed to halt other trains in the tunnel to lessen the spread of smoke and fumes.

Smoke entered the club coach on the train, where the lorry drivers sit, after the *chef de train* opened the door. Passengers said that smoke also entered by other means, although Eurotunnel has denied that smoke had entered through the ventilation system.

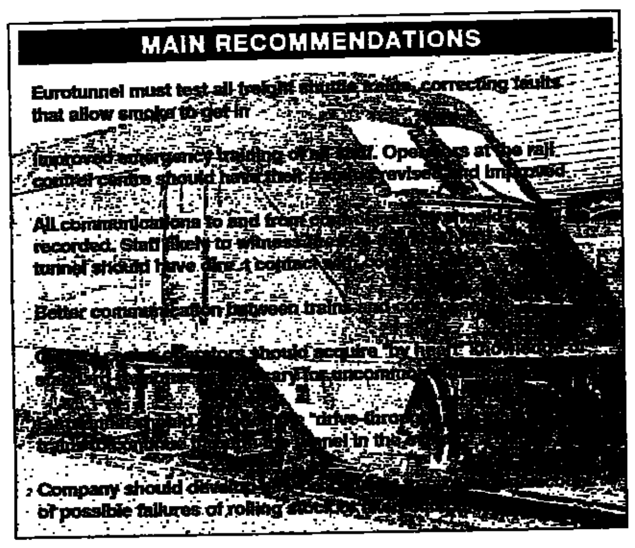
The costs of repairing the tunnel have exceeded £50 million. Transport industry experts estimate that the overall costs, including suspended freight services, could amount to more than £[illegible] million. However, almost all the costs have been underwritten by insurers.

[illegible]

Leading article, page 19


A lorry leaving one of Eurotunnel's lattice-style wagons. Many fire service chiefs want closed containers

MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS



- Eurotunnel must test all freight shuttle trains, correcting faults that allow smoke to get in
- Improved emergency training of all staff. Operators at the rail control centre should have their [illegible] revised and improved
- All communications to and from [illegible] recorded. Staff likely to [illegible] tunnel should have [illegible]
- Better communication between trains and [illegible]
- [illegible] should acquire by heart knowledge of [illegible]
- [illegible] "drive-through" [illegible] tunnel in the [illegible]
- Company should develop [illegible] of possible failures of rolling stock [illegible]

Driver gave underwater kiss of life

Ross Davies, 18, kept alive his friend Liam Coffey, 16, who was trapped in a car under water, by repeatedly diving down and blowing air into his mouth. Mr Davies, of Stanway, near Colchester, the driver, and another friend escaped when the car overturned into a 16ft ditch. He said the incident must have lasted 15 minutes. "I kept going down, holding his nose and breathing into his mouth." Liam was finally pulled out with the help of passers-by.

School shooting

A boy aged 11 was arrested after a pupil at a school in Salford, near Manchester, was shot in the leg with an airgun pellet. The victim, also 11, was in the grounds of St Edmunds Roman Catholic Primary School. The pellet was removed in hospital.

Royal Navy first

The Royal Navy has appointed the Rev Charles E. Stewart, of the Church of Scotland, as director-general of its chaplaincy service. He will be the first non-Anglican to fill the post. Dr Stewart served on *HMS Hermes* during the Falklands war.

Pollution charges

The Environment Agency is to proceed with criminal charges arising out of the *Sea Empress* oil spill last year in which 120 miles of Welsh coastline were polluted. On legal advice, the agency has not yet named the defendants or charges.

Football A-level

Oldborough Manor Community School, in Maidstone, Kent, is to give sixth-formers the chance to gain the equivalent of three A levels by specialising in football. The course includes two GNVQs in business, centred on football, and A-level PE.

Sporting gesture

The man who drank himself to death celebrating Labour's election victory is to be commemorated by his local pub in Bradford. An annual cricket match will be held to compete for the ashes of Keith Narey, who used to umpire for the team at The Brewery Tap.

Paying the price for eternal youth

MEDICAL BRIEFING

THE latest hormone to be sought by those who hope to roll back the years and remain young is pregnenolone. It has been available as part of multi-ingredient preparations in Britain for many years but users should beware that existing preparations are known to have side-effects.

Somerset Maugham would be amused that the hormonal key to eternal youth is now sought by more women than men. Seventy years ago, he believed that an extract of the testes of lambs and monkeys would keep him vigorous, and in his case may have helped him to live to a great age.

The concept of maintaining youthful vigour through hormone supplements became accepted by conventional medicine with the advent of hormone replacement therapy. HRT does protect the bones, arteries, heart, genitalia, and possibly the brain, from some of the effects of ageing. Likewise in men, testosterone, used carefully in selected patients, and with full checks to make certain that these patients show no early signs of possible malignant change in their prostate, preserve masculine drive.

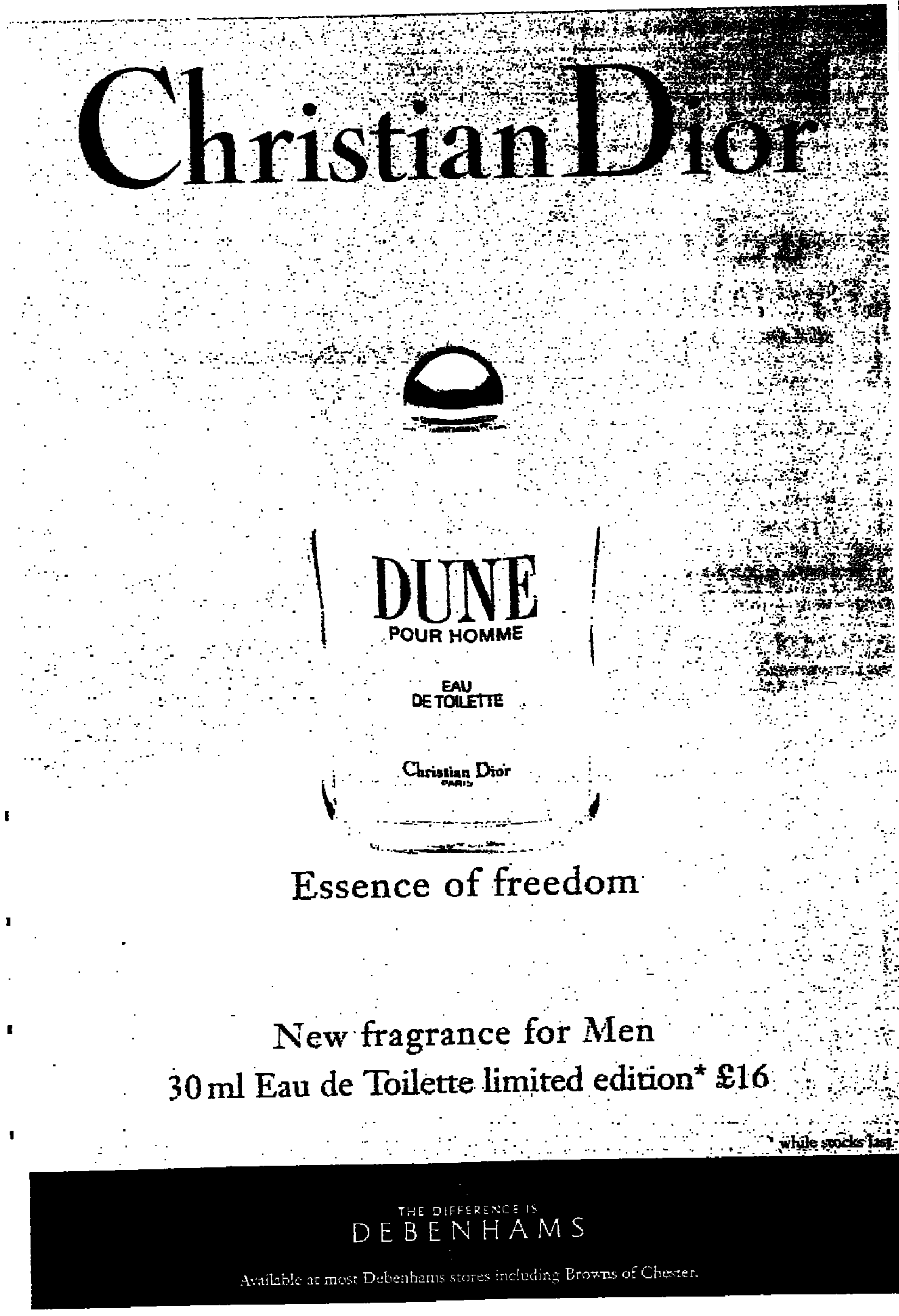
Pregnenolone is a sex hormone related to the female hormones and to testosterone: when it was first used in modern medicine it was limited by its androgenising effects. The use of one related preparation was particularly worrying when given to pregnant women: it was found that female babies born to the women were more likely to suffer from significant changes in their sexual organs, and had an increased risk of abnormalities of the central nervous system.

One hormone, however — the human growth hormone — was found to reverse, as well as arrest, some of the outward signs of ageing. In experiments in Mexico, the shape of the people taking it changed. Fat disappeared from patients' bellies and breasts while their arms and legs regained their youthful outline and musculature. Human growth hormone is expensive and British medical authorities concluded that the experiments did not exclude the possibility of undesirable side-effects.

HRT should be recommended for most menopausal women; testosterone may revolutionise some men's lives, but the cases need careful selection. The amount of research which has been done on the long-term effects of other hormonal products does not yet warrant their widespread use.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

Maugham: long-lived



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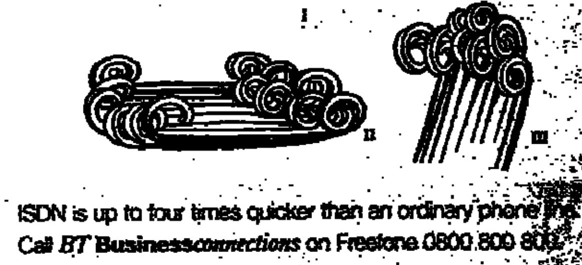
Fig. 9. How to curl celery for garnishing.

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Virtual reality brain makes surgery safer

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

BRAIN surgery in Britain will be revolutionised by a "virtual reality" technique that will make operations safer and let surgeons tackle previously inoperable tumours, the man who is introducing the system said yesterday.

The £180,000 system, which has been used successfully on about 30 patients at the Institute of Neurosciences in Glasgow, is the first of its kind in Britain. There are 70 in use elsewhere in the world. The portable machine was described by Garth Cruickshank, the consultant neurosurgeon introducing it, as "the most important breakthrough in the field for decades".

The Neuronavigation system, designed by BrainLab in Germany, uses two near-infra-red cameras which track tiny ceramic balls attached to surgical instruments. The images are relayed to a computer screen programmed with three-dimensional images of the patient's brain taken from scans. As the surgeon operates, the screen shows where his instruments are inside the brain and gives a clear image of the tumour, allowing much more accurate removal.

The machine can give a scalpel a "virtual" tip, allowing the surgeon to rehearse the operation and to ensure that he does not damage structures in the brain as he works.

Mr Cruickshank is leaving the Southern General Hospital, where the institute is based, in July to become Professor of Neurosurgery at Birmingham University, where he hopes to introduce the system. He said the technique meant much smaller incisions in the head, shorter recovery times and safer surgery.

He said it was as easy to use as a computer game. He joked that neurosurgeons "have poor powers of concentration — it has to be simple, straightforward and reliable." He believes the 5 per cent morbidity rate — the incidence of damage — associated with neurosurgery could be improved by up to 15 per cent by the technique.

"One of the problems of neurosurgery is that the brain, when it is diseased, becomes extremely distorted," Mr Cruickshank said. "The huge advantage of this new piece of equipment is that it enables you to look at the pathology as you are operating on it. Not only can you be more accurate, but you can get to bits of the brain you weren't able to get to safely before. You can also use much smaller openings into the skull.

"As well as allowing us to do new operations, it is going to make many of the routine things we do in neurosurergy, such as putting in catheters or draining cysts, much safer, quicker and easier."

The first patient to be operated on in Britain with the technique was Stewart Gilchrist, 43, the former chief investment manager of Scottish Amicable. Mr Gilchrist, who is married and lives in Strathblane, suffers from a recurrent brain tumour which was discovered after he crashed his car during an epileptic fit on New Year's Day, 1993.

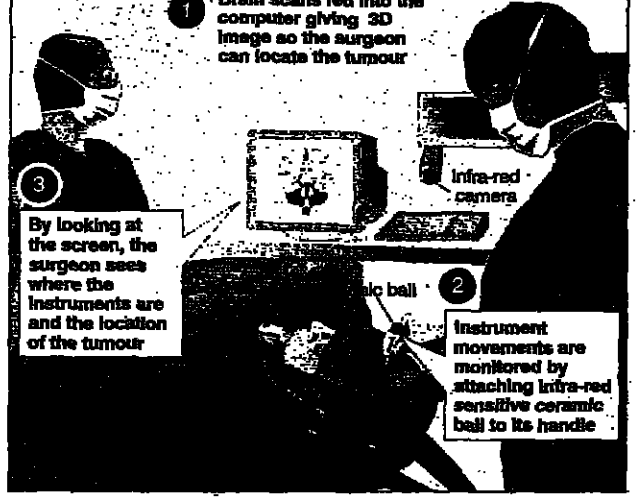
The first operation was carried out using conventional techniques and a tumour the size of an orange was removed. After a second epileptic fit and car crash in November last year, Mr Gilchrist was told that his tumour had recurred. He was operated on in December using the technique. Mr Cruickshank said that it was particularly useful in Mr Gilchrist's case because the previous surgery had distorted the brain and made it more difficult for surgeons to find their way around.

The margins of his tumour were much clearer on the computer screen, making it more likely the tumour has been entirely removed. A third operation, if needed, would be possible with the new technique but much more difficult using conventional methods.

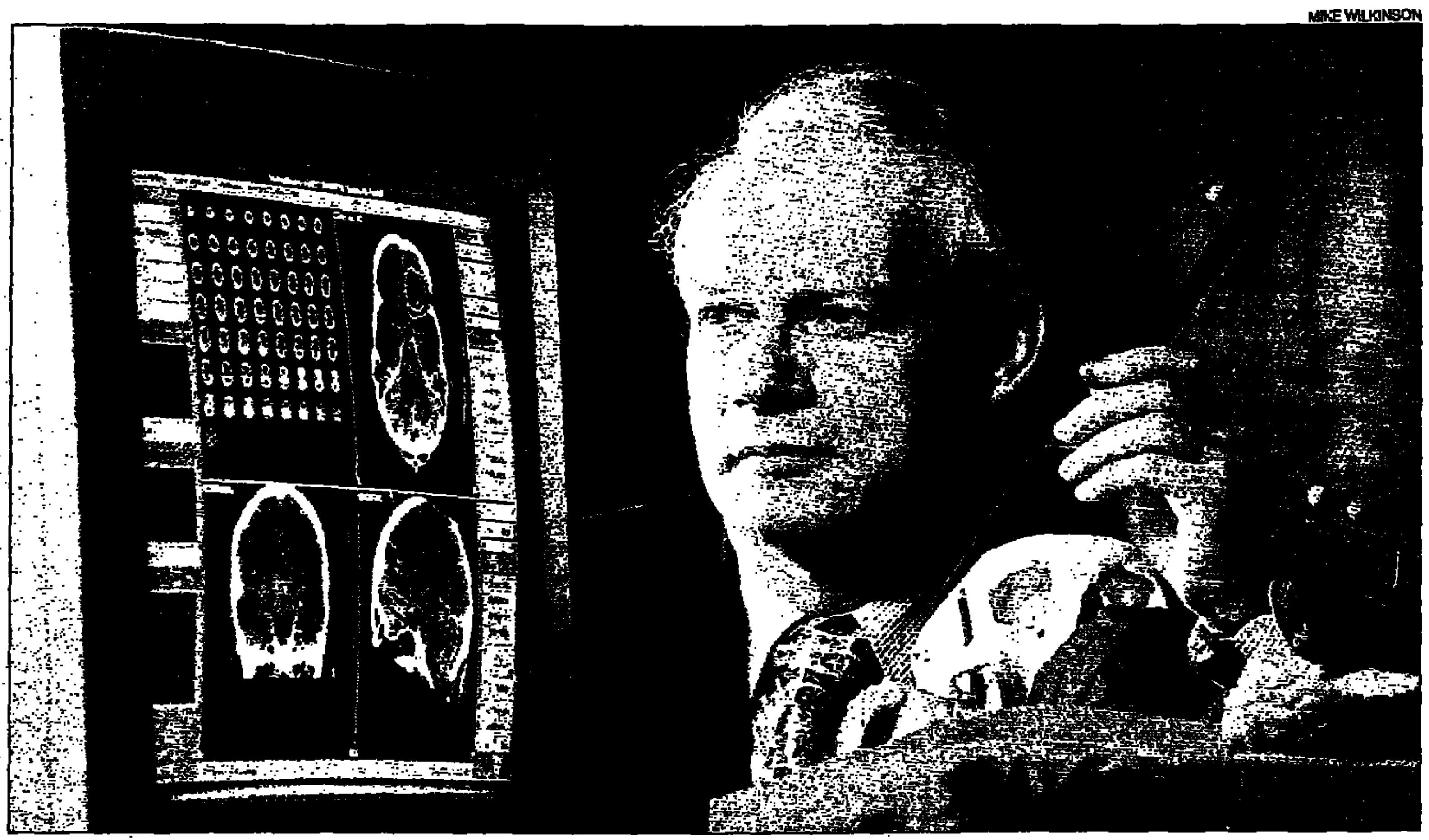
Mr Gilchrist said that his neck was less stiff after the second operation as the surgeons did not have to manipulate his head as much. The second operation took two hours, compared with three and a half for the first.

"I was very pleased to be the recipient of such an advanced technique," Mr Gilchrist said. "Before the operation you have attachments put on your head making you look like a small sputnik. But during the operation things went much the same as before as far as I am concerned." He is on a course of chemotherapy to keep the tumour at bay.

HOW THE TECHNIQUE WORKS


1
Brain scans fed into the computer giving 3D image so the surgeon can locate the tumour
Infra-red camera
3
By looking at the screen, the surgeon sees where the instruments are and the location of the tumour
ic ball
2
Instrument movements are monitored by attaching infra-red sensitive ceramic ball to its handle

MIKE WILKINSON



Garth Cruickshank demonstrating the £180,000 system that takes surgeons on a screen trip through the patient's brain as they operate

Gilchrist: first patient

Would-be padre produced gun in pub

By Paul Wilkinson

A THEOLOGY student who hoped to become an Army padre was jailed for two years yesterday for producing a pistol in a crowded pub during a women's dominoes match. Players dived for the floor when one woman noticed Robert Bamford-Stewart loading the weapon and shouted a warning.

Bamford-Stewart, 46, who was wearing a clerical collar, produced the pistol after a row with regulars over whether he was a priest. One man tried to disarm him and the two then grappled at the bar with the gun between them until Bamford-Stewart was forced to the floor.

He was convicted last November at Leeds on charges of affray and possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. Yesterday he appeared for sentence at Bradford Crown Court.

The incident happened in April last year when Bamford-Stewart, a student at Lampeter College in Wales, called in at the Crown pub in Normanton, near Wakefield, where customers recognised him from a previous visit when he had blessed them. One drinker accused him of not being a real vicar.

Bamford-Stewart then drew a .8 pistol from a case, put ammunition in the magazine and let it rest on his thigh. Philip Wright, another drinker, wrestled him to the ground, holding him face down until police arrived. Bamford-Stewart later told police he had bought the gun the same day "to test if his faith was compatible with firearms". He had fired it on Morecambe beach. He claimed he was merely showing off the gun at the pub in an "innocent display". The gun can fire blanks only.

Jailing him, Recorder James Allen, QC, told Bamford-Stewart that, despite his explanation that he was considering becoming an Army padre and wished to test his religious beliefs, "you must have known that, by producing that firearm, you would produce fear, mayhem and panic on the part of the other customers". Mr Wright was awarded £150 from public funds for his bravery in tackling Bamford-Stewart.

Drivers put at risk by road-sign thieves

By Dareh Gregorian

GANGS are stealing road signs to sell for scrap, putting motorists' lives at risk, the AA said yesterday.

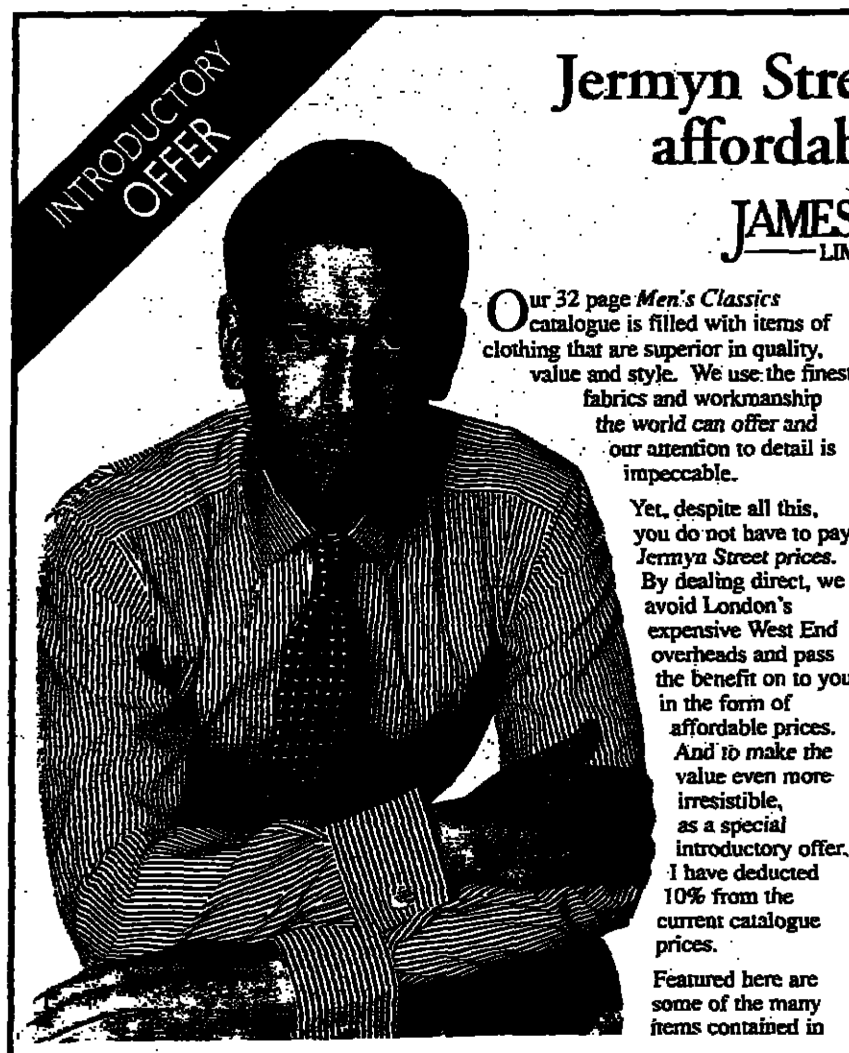
The theft of the aluminium signs, some of which are worth £5,000, is costing councils hundreds of thousands of pounds a year. "We have had reports around the country of people posing as maintenance workers who have stripped entire routes of their signs. It is very difficult to police," an AA spokesman, Steve Upsher, said. "If someone is posing as a maintenance worker, with an orange jacket and a van, it's hard to tell."

Hampshire and the Midlands are the areas hardest hit by the gangs, Mr Upsher said. "In Basingstoke, £70,000 worth of signs was stolen in one run. In one instance in the Midlands, thieves stole every other chevron sign from the motorway roundabout. In East Anglia, a complete bridge parapet was stolen. The number of signs stolen last year runs into the thousands."

Kevin Delaney, traffic and road safety manager for the RAC, said: "Aluminium has a high resale value and it is easy to get. If you are going to nick it, it's easy to carry, and the return far outweighs the effort." He said that, posing as maintenance workers, the gangs would attract little attention. It was not impossible "that a great number of police cars have driven past them without knowing it".

Paul Watters, head of road and transport policy at the AA, said that the thefts could have deadly consequences. "Signs are a vital part of the road scene and are there to inform, warn or direct the motorist. Warning signs and chevrons on bends are particularly important and can be lifesavers. Taking them away can present a real hazard, especially for drivers who are unfamiliar with a certain route."

The AA recommends that agencies use steel or plastic for the signs, as those materials are worth much less as scrap than aluminium, or that they invest in tamper-proof screws. "Some of the recommendations may be expensive, but they save money in the long run," Mr Upsher said.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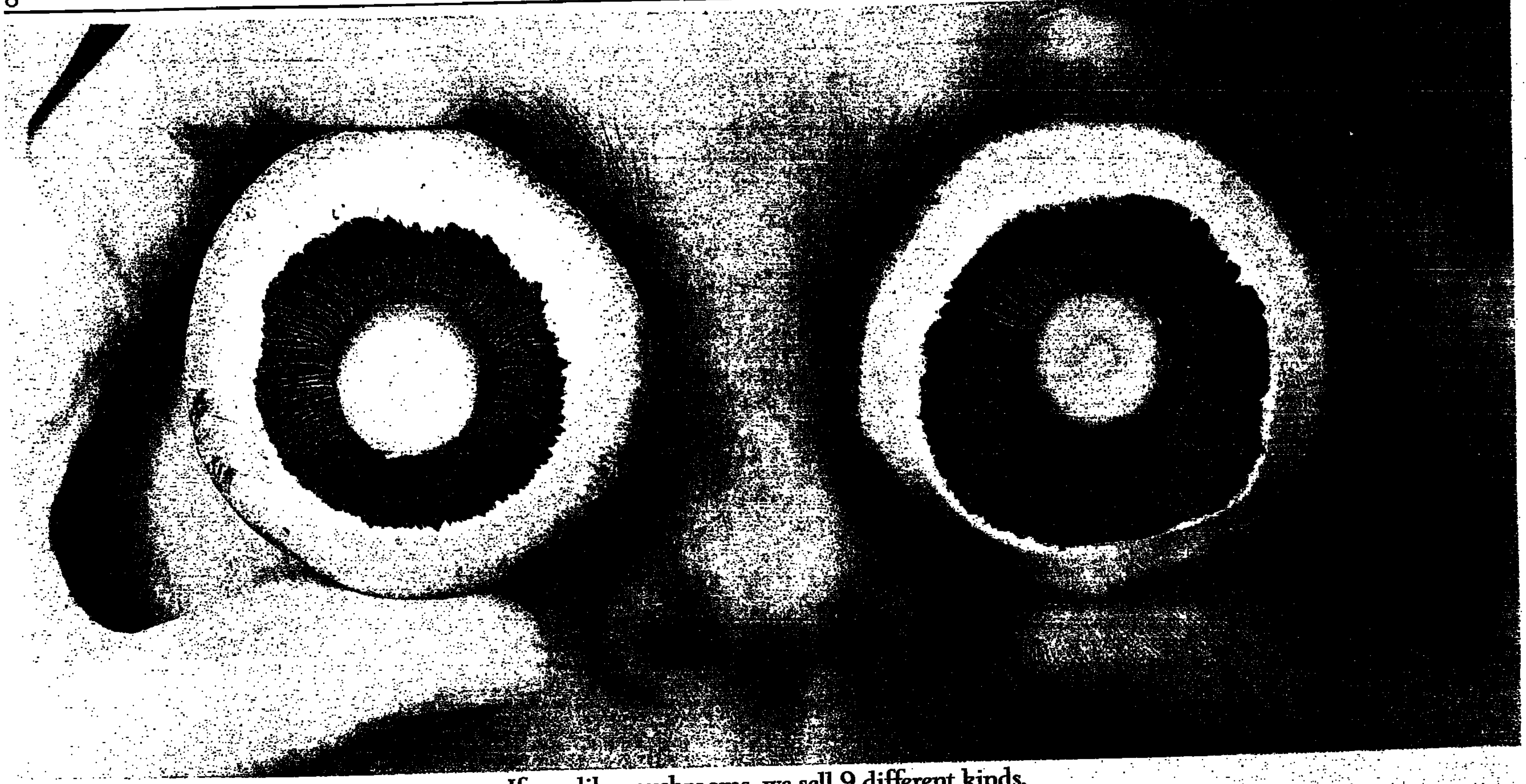

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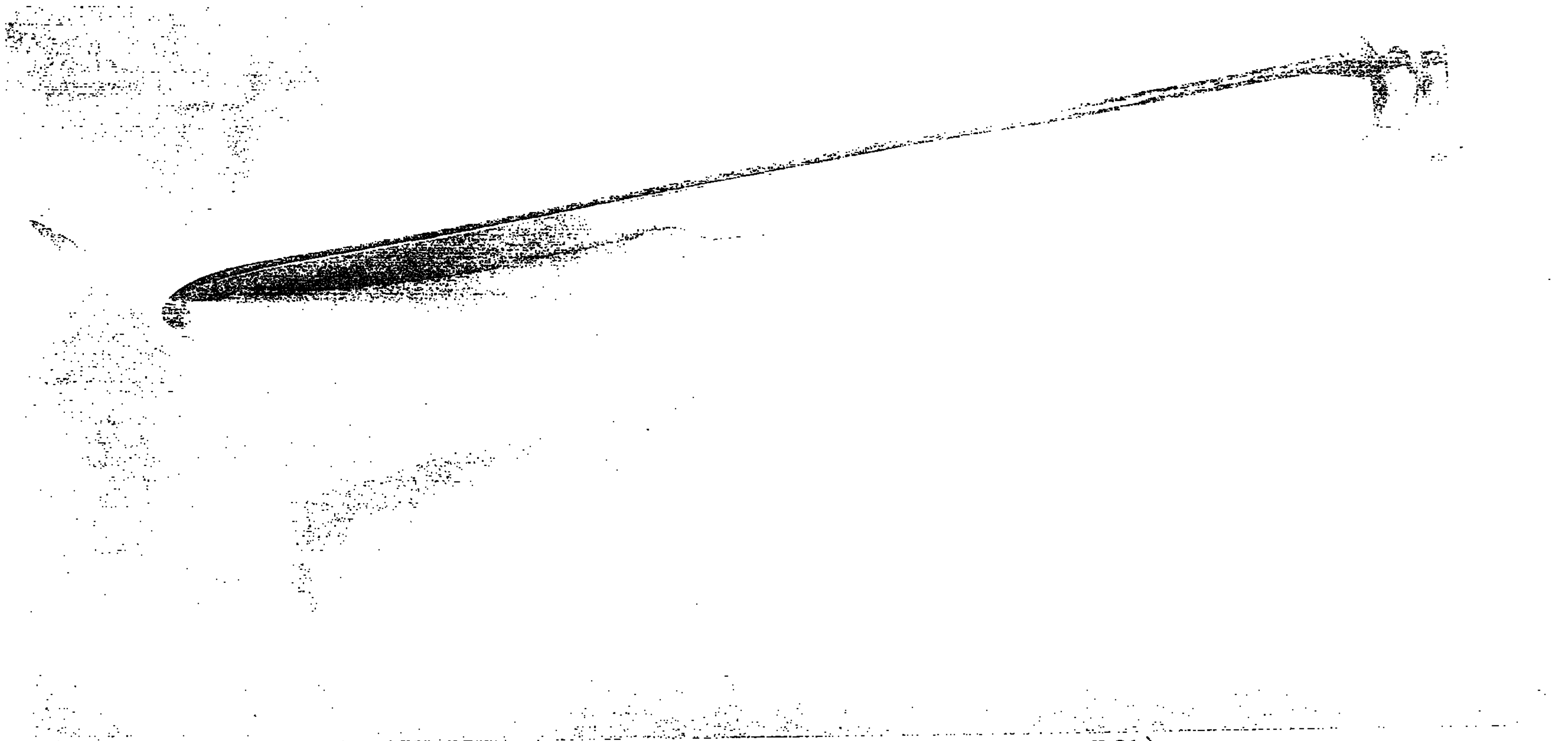

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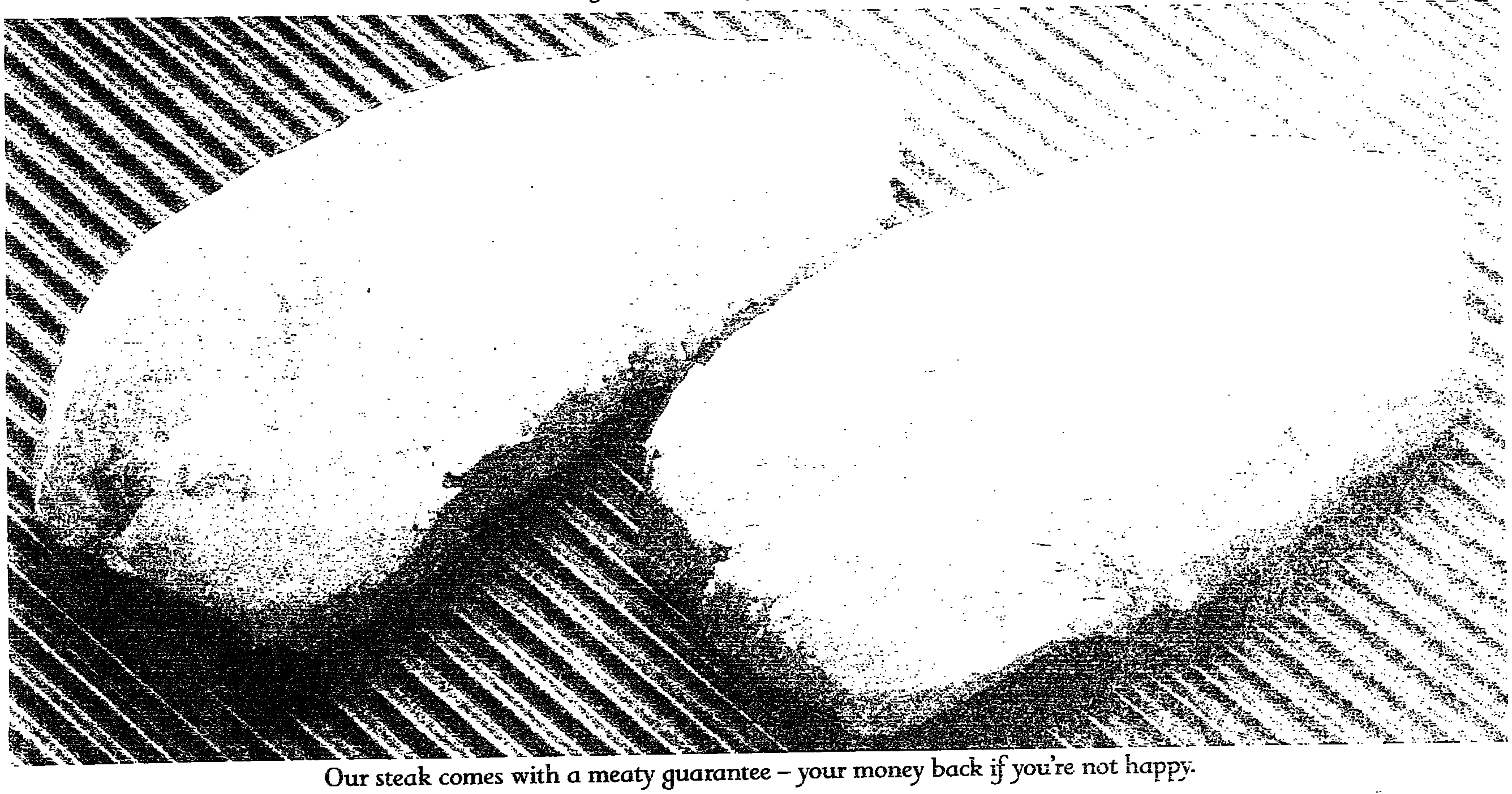

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Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster	**David Clark**
Under-Secretary of State at the Office of Public Services	**Peter Kilfoyle**

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Minister of State for Employment and Disability Rights	**Andrew Smith**
Minister of State for School Standards	**Stephen Byers**
Minister of State for Education and Employment (Lords)	**Baroness Blackstone**
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The Cabinet, front row: Donald Dewar, Margaret Beckett, Jack Straw, Robin Cook, John Prescott, Tony Blair, Gordon Brown, Lord Irvine of Lairg, David Blunkett, Jack Cunningham, George Robertson. Back row: Nick Brown, Alistair Darling, David Clark, Clare Short, Marjorie Mowlam, Chris Smith, Frank Dobson, Ann Taylor, Harriet Harman, Ron Davies, Lord Richard, Gavin Strang, Sir Robin Butler (the Cabinet Secretary)

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Minister of State for Defence Procurement	**John Gilbert** *(to become a life peer)*
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Minister of Transport	**Gavin Strang**
Minister for the Environment	**Michael Meacher**
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Minister for Public Health	**Tessa Jowell**
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Treasurer of Her Majesty's Household (Deputy Chief Whip)	**George Mudie**
Comptroller of Her Majesty's Household	**Thomas McAvoy**
Vice Chamberlain of Her Majesty's Household	**Janet Anderson**
Lords Commissioners	**Robert Ainsworth** **Graham Allen** **James Dowd** **John McFall** **Jon Owen Jones**
Assistant whips	**Clive Betts** **David Clelland** **Kevin Hughes** **David Jamieson** **Jane Kennedy** **Greg Pope** **Bridget Prentice**

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Captain, Gentlemen-at-Arms (Government Chief Whip)	**Lord Carter**
Captain, Yeomen of the Guard (Deputy Chief Whip)	**Lord McIntosh of Haringey**
Lords in Waiting (Whips)	**Lord Haskel** **Baroness Farrington of Ribbleton** **Lord Whitty** **Baroness Gould of Potternewton** **Doug Hoyle** *(to become a life peer)*

Second Church Estates Commissioner, representing Church Commissioners	**Appointment yet to be made**

Commons may go horseshoe-shape

By Polly Newton
Political Reporter

CHANGES to the layout of the House of Commons chamber are being discussed after Labour's landslide victory left the party with twice as many MPs as the Government benches can accommodate.

One option is to extend the green benches so that they meet in the middle at one end to form a horseshoe shape. That would allow greater flexibility as well as creating more seats. It could also alter the adversarial atmosphere generated by rows of Government MPs facing the Opposition ranks across "no man's land".

Labour has 419 MPs fighting for space in a chamber with enough seats in total for 420 people. It is the largest Government force since 1931, when 470 Tory MPs were elected and they had to share the Opposition benches.

Some new Labour MPs have already identified as a possible home the small cross benches, which run at right angles to the main seating at the end of the chamber, furthest away from the Speaker. But because those benches are behind the white line on the carpet which marks the "bar" of the House — the technical boundary of the chamber — anyone sitting there cannot be called to speak during debates.

Possible solutions to the problem are expected to be examined by the House of Commons Commission over the next few months. The six-strong body, chaired by the Speaker, is responsible for all domestic arrangements in the Commons. If the commission favoured the horseshoe option, it would almost certainly put the matter before the whole House.

The division of the chamber into two sides facing each other is said to date from the 16th century, when members used as their meeting room St Stephen's Chapel in the old Palace of Westminster. The monks had sat in two rows of choir stalls on either side of the altar, an arrangement which has been retained to this day.

Some MPs are now calling for swift action, arguing that the alterations could be carried out in the summer recess.

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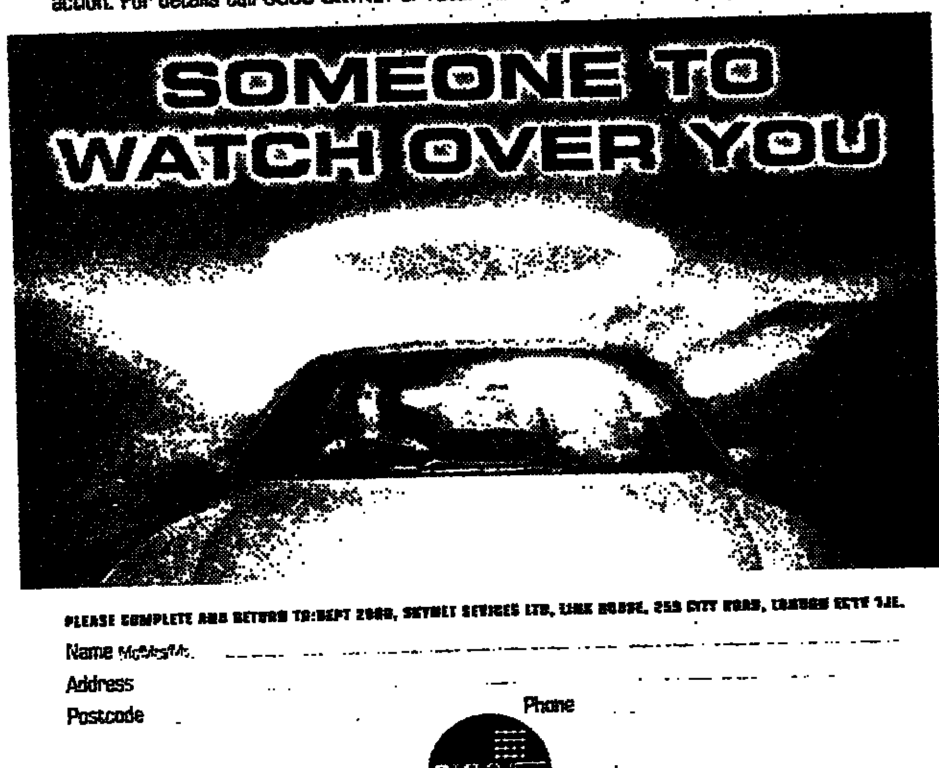
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Blunkett takes a lesson from Swiss on teaching 3Rs

By David Charter, education correspondent

RADICAL teaching methods drawn from Britain's global competitors will be added to traditional classroom practice to raise standards in mathematics and literacy, the Government said yesterday. Children will also be discouraged from using calculators until they are eight.

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, said teachers could learn from Switzerland and Taiwan, where children performed far better in reading, writing and arithmetic.

Such a move could lead to more children being held back a year in primary school so they learn with pupils of their own ability rather than their age — as in Switzerland, where up to a quarter of children are in the year below their age group. Or, as in Taiwan, children could be taught in whole class groups with extra help given at lunchtime or after school to those who struggled to keep up.

Mr Blunkett said the Government wanted a revamp of teaching methods to ensure that, by 2002, 75 per cent of 11-year-olds were reaching expected levels of numeracy and 80 per cent in literacy. In last summer's national curriculum tests, results showed 55 per cent and 57 per cent of 11-year-olds respectively were at those levels.

Mr Blunkett formally established a Numeracy Task Force to report in November on strategies to achieve the targets, mirroring the Literacy Task Force which reported while Labour was in Opposition. The task force will be headed by Professor David Reynolds, of the University of Newcastle, whose has extensively studied mathematics teaching in the Far East.

Professor Reynolds said schools would have to reverse inspectors' judgments that mathematics for seven to 11-year-olds was the "least well taught and least interesting" subject at those crucial ages.

He added: "We have major problems as a country in the area of numeracy. For the first time in the last few years, there will be a genuine scientific attempt to review the evidence, from this country and abroad and from practitioners in schools, about what works."

The "interactive" whole class teaching he studied in Taiwan had already been used effectively in the London borough of Barking & Dagenham, he said. Children's desks are in a double horseshoe shape in class, so they are all facing the teacher, and can be called on at any time to answer questions or take over the lesson for a few minutes.

Parents found it easier in other countries to help children at home, he said, because lessons were set out in manuals they could buy. The task force would consider manuals for teachers which would help parents in this way.

Mr Blunkett hinted that there would be less use of calculators for children aged five to seven. "It is vital children understand that calculators exist, but also that they have the basic tools of calculation themselves — including mental arithmetic."

Teachers' leaders welcomed the targets but said that they could not be achieved without more resources. David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "We are very supportive of the idea of a national numeracy drive. The targets are tough, and they can only be achieved if primary schools are given more support than they were under the last Government."

Multiple ways to learn times tables

PARENTS should encourage their children to chant their times tables and play games to learn the basics of mathematics, a government adviser said yesterday (David Charter writes).

Number games were just as helpful as parrot-fashion recitals, and parents and teachers should make mathematics fun, said Anita Straker, director of the National Numeracy Project and a member of the numeracy task force. She said children should be challenged to think about numbers. Multiplication tables could be recited backwards as well as forwards, or started in different places.

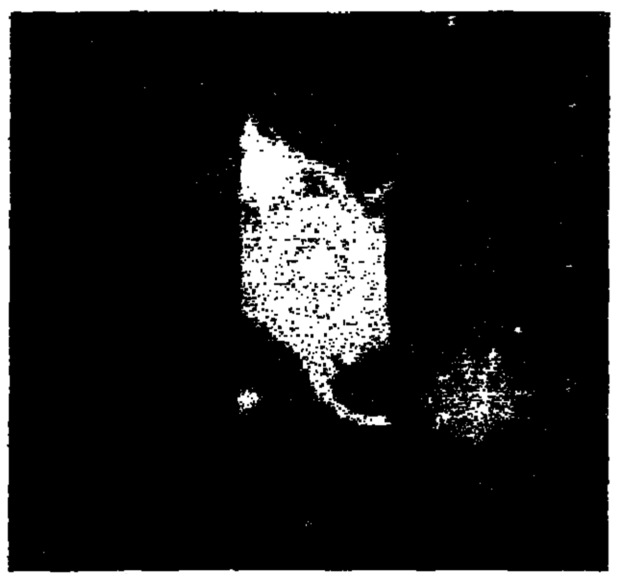
Mrs Straker said: "It is really important that children know their tables, but variety is important in mathematics because, if you do things one way, when you meet different circumstances you might be unable to adapt. Children also need to be taught strategies for remembering facts."

School lessons should end by revising the most difficult facts covered, she said.

"If the most difficult one to remember was that six sevens are 42, then you go round the class asking children to say the answer in the voice of an elephant, or a cat, or mouse. By the time you have gone round the class like that, children will remember it."

Number games are an important part of a strategy developed by Peter Lacey, a former official with the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, now a schools adviser in in Lincolnshire.

Children are expected to learn their tables at home so they can use their skills for competitions in class. For example, the number 1997 will be written on the board and pupils challenged to make the most combinations totalling 20 or less from the individual digits through addition, subtraction, multiplication and subtraction.



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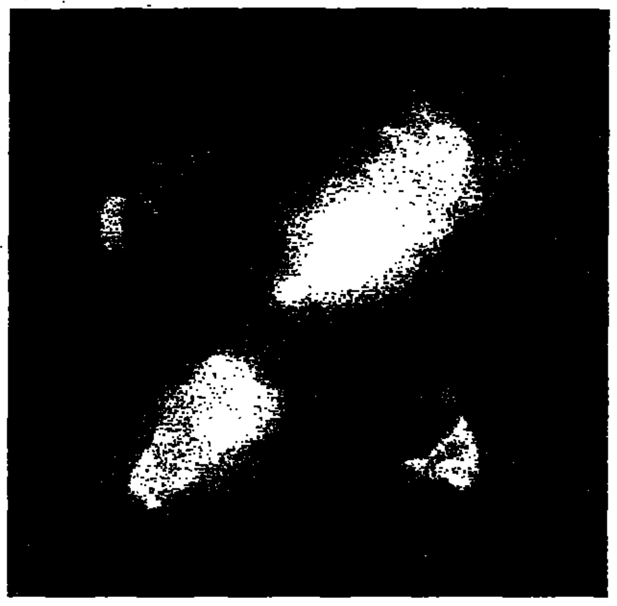
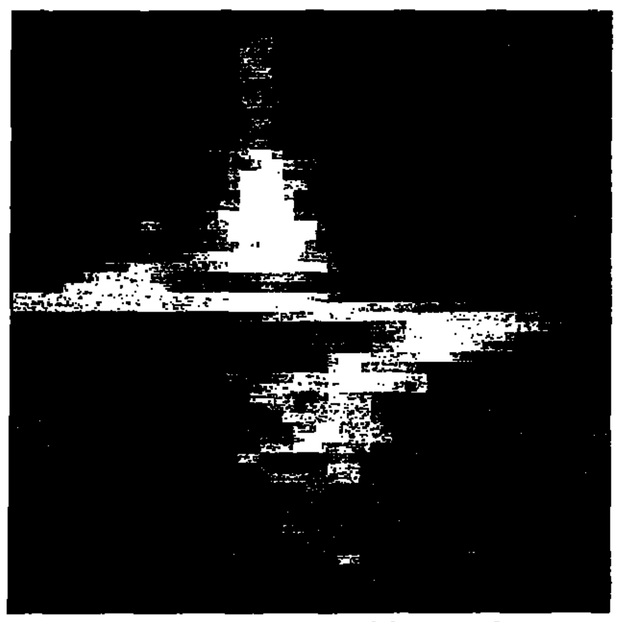


A dying star hurls out gas and dust in the Egg nebula



Dust and gas whirl round a black hole in galaxy M84

Hubble pictures show life and death of stars

By Nigel Hawkes

THE first pictures taken by new instruments on the Hubble space telescope have excited astronomers with images of dying stars and a black hole at the centre of a nearby galaxy.

The telescope was upgraded in February. One of the new instruments, the Near-Infrared Camera and Multi-Object Spectrometer (Nicmos), took pictures of an exploding star and of a region in the Orion nebula where new stars are forming.

Seen from Earth, the Orion nebula is relatively dim and featureless, but the Hubble telescope unmasked a chaotic region where massive young stars hurl material into the surrounding molecular cloud. Stars and glowing dust, heated by intense starlight, appear yellow-orange.

The second new instrument, the imaging spectrograph, has produced the best pictures yet of events around a black hole in the galaxy M84, which is 50 light years away.

The spectrograph can detect the movement of gas, dust and stars either towards or away from the Earth. The image, like a jagged line, shows that light from one side of the galaxy's centre is shifted far to the blue end of the spectrum, while on the other side it is shifted far to the red.

This means that the material must be whirling around the galactic centre at speeds of 400 kilometres per second. Only a black hole with a mass 300 times that of the Sun could whisk the material around so fast, Nasa scientists said.

Tempering the good news for scientists is that one of the two new instruments is likely to last only two years. It needs to be cooled by the evaporation of solid nitrogen. It appears that the nitrogen has expanded more than expected and pushed a third camera out of focus. The gas is also leaking into space, reducing the instrument's effective life. To compensate, more of the observing time on Hubble will be devoted to Nicmos over the next 18 months, twice as much as planned.

Ladybird spider births raise survival hopes

By Nigel Hawkes, science editor

ONE of Britain's rarest creatures, the ladybird spider, has been bred in captivity by entomologists from English Nature. Until recently only 30 or so of the spiders survived, at a single area of Dorset heathland near Wareham. Now, thanks to the restoration of the site to its original conditions, numbers are rising again.

The successful captive breeding of the spider — only the second time this is known to have been achieved — raises hopes that it can be saved.

Dr Roger Key, of English Nature, said: "We're delighted to announce the birth of a whole clutch of spiderlings. We now have to see if we can rear them to adulthood. If we can do this successfully we will then try to breed spiders from the Dorset population for release in Britain."

The spider is one of the most striking of native species, but it does not get out much. The female, which is matt black, lives all her life in her burrow, while the smaller but more brilliantly coloured male appears only for a couple of weeks in May, during the breeding season. The females lay up to 80 eggs in a cocoon and nurse them until they hatch in July or August. The mothers feed the young on regurgitated food and, in a terminal act of devotion, die to give them a final meal.

The males, with a half-inch-long body, are almost equally reclusive, apart from their May outing. The increase in the species has been aided by a volunteer entomologist who has acted as a dating agency, Dr Key says. He has ensured that roaming males have all found their way to the burrow entrance of a waiting female, ensuring that all the females had a chance to breed.

That has helped to increase numbers to more than a hundred last summer, and further aid has come from Forest Enterprise, which has cleared encroaching pine and rhododendron from the site, no bigger than a football pitch, where the spiders live. By restoring the sandy heathland, clothed with heather, the spider has been given a helping hand.

The British population is far too small to risk any experiments in captive breeding, so spiders were brought over from a nature reserve in Jutland, in Denmark. The only previous record of success was reported by the late Gerald Durrell, the author and conservationist, who managed to raise offspring from a female he found as a boy on Corfu.

Ian Hughes, of Dudley Zoo, brought nine females and a single male from Jutland. Eight of the females were already pregnant, while the ninth duly mated with the spare male. All produced eggs.

"We have no idea how many there are, but we know they are there because, when we put out food, they take it," Dr Key says. "The worry was whether we could get them through the winter, which they spend entirely in the burrow. We just didn't know if it would be too damp, too dry, too hot, or too cold, but it seems to have worked out well."

The male emerges for only a few weeks a year

There is no plan to release the Danish spiders into the wild, but they may be distributed to zoos so that people can see them. The experience from raising them in captivity will be used to do the same with the Dorset population, with the ultimate aim of recolonising other areas in Dorset, and regions such as Cornwall and the Isle of Wight, which once had populations.

Between 1906 and 1979 the ladybird spider was believed to be extinct in Britain. Then the Dorset site was found, but it appears to be the only one.

Oil testing 'guns' pose threat to whales

WILDLIFE experts have warned of the danger that oil exploration could pose to whales, dolphins and porpoises off the Atlantic coast of Scotland (Nigel Hawkes writes). The fear is that the booming sound of seismic guns could confuse and frighten the creatures.

The deep seas off north and west Scotland, known as the Atlantic Frontier, are home to 21 species of cetaceans. Mark Simmonds, head of special projects at the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, said: "Whales and dolphins are very reliant on sound for socialising, feeding and migration and this normal behaviour could be disrupted over a wide area."

Seismic guns produce short pulses of loud noise. The echoes identify areas suitable for oil drilling. It is believed that cetaceans move away when seismic testing starts, but it is feared that they will not be able to avoid the noise because many different areas will be explored during the summer.

A statement signed by 18 experts said that sperm whales could be at special risk because they dived deep and stayed down a long time, increasing the risk that the guns would be fired directly above them.

The Government has issued guidelines to oil companies to protect cetaceans, but the society is not convinced that they are adhered to strictly.

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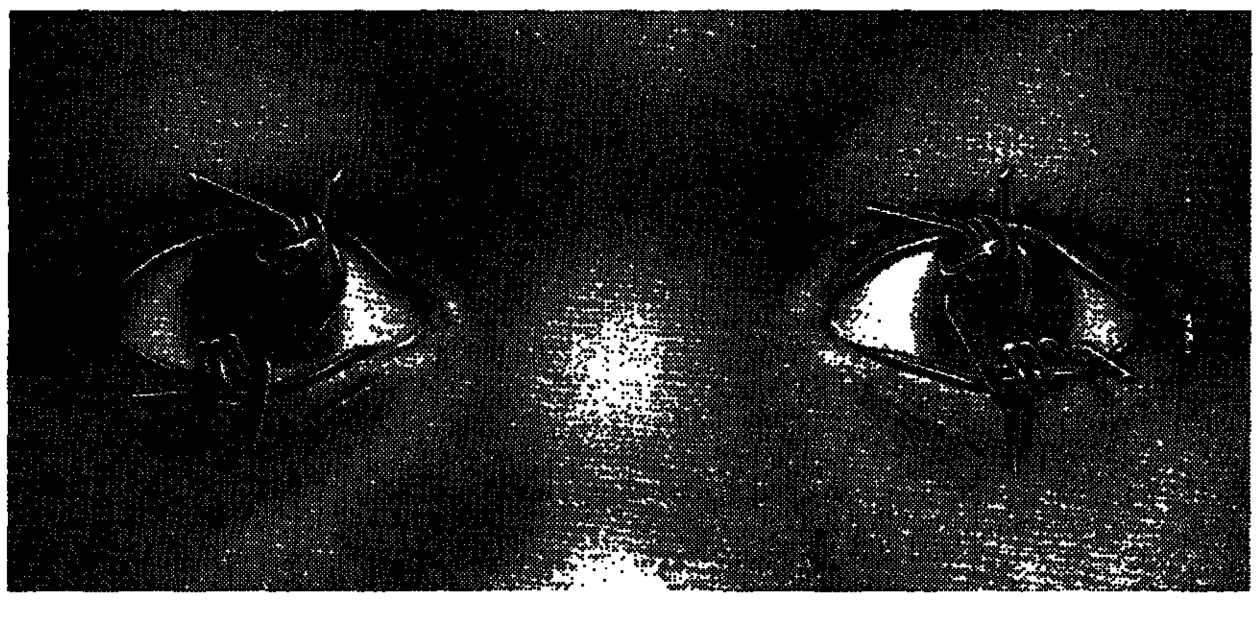

Blinking Hell

At first it's not too bad.

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And that's all it takes to spread trachoma.

You only notice there's something wrong when the child's eye starts to itch and swell up

It's not terribly nice but it's bearable, and the infection will 'burn' itself out after a few weeks, leaving just a small scar on the eyelid.

The trouble is, it'll be back. And it won't just come back once. It will strike over and over again, with every reinfection burning and scarring the child's eyelids a little bit more.

In the end, after years of suffering, the eyelids become so scarred and disfigured that the eyelashes turn inwards, into the eye. Until, agonisingly slowly, you go blind.

Imagine, every time you blink, you scratch your eyes

Think about it. You've probably blinked a dozen times since you started reading this. What if you'd scratched your eyes every time? You'd be in agony and you'd be desperately trying to stop. But how do you stop blinking?

You may never even have heard of trachoma before, but 6 million people in the developing world are blind because of it. And millions more are carrying the infection. It makes life impossible for young mothers trying to raise children. Fathers and husbands can't work to support themselves, let alone their families. So the whole family suffers.

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مكرر من الاصل

Jospin makes a meal of election campaign

Ben Macintyre takes to the road with France's self-confessed Blairite Socialist leader, but finds little to remind him of new Labour's election campaign

LIONEL JOSPIN, leader of France's Socialist Party and self-styled Blairite, hit the election trail in Burgundy yesterday with a menu that could hardly have been further removed from the spartan rigours of the victorious Labour campaign.

We began with terrine and local cheeses arranged in brioches. A small mountain of quiches, petits fours, cold meats and fresh rolls followed and finally, a glistening array of patisseries. The election stop outside Chalon-sur-Saône, south of Dijon, was washed down with a most acceptable Bourgogne Côte Chalonnaise '95 and an unimpeachable Montagny Premier Cru.

Having spent several weeks on the Blair campaign buses living off damp sandwiches, Mars bars and adrenalin, I had hoped to find a more civilised approach to campaigning by the French Left, but still the political culture shock was profound. By contrast with the frenetic pace of the Blair itinerary, the Jospin campaign appeared quaintly old-fashioned in its lack of bustle.

That, say critics, is precisely the problem with the French Socialist Party and the principal reason why the Left now seems unlikely to do more than slim down the centre-right parliamentary majority when votes are counted on June 1.

So far from reforming itself in the Blairite mould, the French Socialist Party remains largely unreconstructed, and has even lurched back to the left to accommodate a testy alliance with the Communists. Where the Blair team was evidently and palpably hungry for power, the Jospin team appeared more obviously, well, hungry.

I cannot remember the Blair entourage missing an appointment on its slog around Britain by more than a few minutes. By the time the Jospin bus — a somewhat frumpy and cramped answer to the gleaming Blair cavalcade — chugged into Chalon-sur-Saône, it was about an hour behind schedule. There would not be time, an untroubled aide explained, to visit a nearby factory and meet the local populace as planned. There was time, however, to enjoy, for an hour and a half, the splendid local produce.

EMMANUEL PAIN / REUTER

M Jospin's message may prove indigestible for voters, but his diet outshines Tony Blair's spartan campaign fare

The Saône-et-Loire region, long a bastion of the Right, is territory the Left must conquer if, as the Socialists predict, they are to form the next government. No whiff of the Clinton-Blair style of electioneering has reached Burgundy. There was no flag-waving, no hail-the-chief music, no scrambling for camera positions; no leaflets or slogans — only a handful of discreet posters. Where the Blair spin-doctors bit their nails and scolded, their French counterparts placidly smoked cheroots.

Only M Jospin, a tall, white-haired figure with the dour aspect of a harried headmaster, appeared remotely nervous. He cheered up visibly when offered two bottles of vintage wine.

M Jospin has made much of his party's professed similarities with new Labour, but his promise to create 700,000 jobs (half in the public sector) and to cut the working week — without explaining how he will pay for them — are straight out of the manual of Socialist orthodoxy.

At yesterday's convivial get-together, six local candidates and a handful of left-wing notables, but no members of the public, clustered round the party leader. Not all were toeing the party line.

"This is the last breath of Marxism," said Bernard Kouchner, the founder of the medical charity Médecins sans Frontières and once the rising star of the Left. M Kouchner is still mightily peeved not to have been awarded a safe seat in this election or, indeed, any constituency. "They all rejected me, now they are asking for my support," he grumbled.

The comparisons with Tony Blair, he said, were ridiculous: "We haven't changed. We need to modernise, to invent a sort of liberal humanist socialism of the sort I have been practising for 30 years."

Signs of fresh ideas, or fresh faces, at "lunch with Lionel" were few. But one such was Arnaud Montebourg, the young Paris lawyer who has carried out a legal crusade over the housing corruption scandals that have tainted the Gaullist leadership. His clean-shaven energy seemed oddly out of place among the party stalwarts, many still sporting the extremes of facial hair now considered passé in new Labour circles.

Finally M Jospin rose to speak and carefully enumerated the qualities of the local candidate. It was a solid, but colourless, performance.

"*On va gagner!*" someone shouted. M Jospin seemed surprised.

Despite what appeared to be a healthy and growing momentum in the opening stages of the campaign, M Jospin has so far failed to galvanise a grumpy electorate although the Government remains deeply unpopular. His altered stance on Europe — campaigning against new austerity measures to bring down the deficit in time for economic and monetary union — has divided his supporters and provided ammunition for the Right, which is demanding to know how openly Eurosceptic Communists would fit into a still essentially pro-European Socialist government.

There is no doubting M Jospin's honesty or grit, as was shown in his '95 campaign for President, but he clearly faces his own critical deficit, of charisma and inspiration.

As the glasses clinked in the Alfred Jarreau hall and the minutes ticked pleasantly away, the harsh vigour and bright lights of the Labour campaign seemed a world away. New Labour, new Britain. Old socialism, old France, old wine.

Cook rejects EU military role

From Susan Bell in Paris

EUROPE got its first taste of the reality of new Labour's defence policy yesterday as Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, and George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, told a meeting of Western European Union ministers here that Britain would not alter its policy in opposing any move to bring defence under the wing of the European Union.

If some members of the ten-nation WEU were hoping for a change of policy from the new Government, they were disappointed. Labour is no different from the Tories in opposing France and Germany's desire to merge the WEU into the EU to make it the Union's "military arm".

Mr Robertson emphasised the Government's commitment to Nato. "It exists and it works and it has a track record as an instrument of European defence. We must be careful not to do anything which would jepordise or undermine Nato's considerable success," he said.

"There is no need for Europe to create new institutions. What we have to do is to use the existing ones more effectively," he said.

But he said he believed that the WEU played "a crucial role as a pivot between the EU and Nato. We need to find the best way to use scarce defence resources without duplication." Mr Robertson added: "We would not wish to see a situation arise in which the WEU became the military arm of the EU."

The two British ministers emphasised that defence cooperation would remain an inter-governmental issue and that any joint actions between the WEU and the EU must be decided through consensus rather than by a majority vote. "Security and defence are matters that intimately touch upon the identity of a nation state," Mr Cook said.

Photograph, page 24

Cook at WEU meeting in Paris yesterday

Britain could ride to Bonn's rescue over single currency

From Roger Boyes in Bonn

GERMANY is nervously heading for its moment of truth on the European single currency. Tax revenue estimates for 1997 will be announced tomorrow and will make plain whether Bonn still stands a realistic chance of clearing the public deficit hurdle for the euro.

Bonn is on edge. Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, is beginning to look like Gary Cooper in *High Noon*. Officials close to him say he has started to become snappy, his joshing manner a thing of the past.

The fact is Herr Waigel has built himself a cage. He repeatedly stresses that the Maastricht ceiling on the public-sector deficit — 3 per cent of gross domestic product — has to be met precisely, and claims that Germany will be on target with 2.9 per cent. He also stresses that the euro will be as strong as the mark. Because all the calculations go awry if the growth figure is wrong, he continues to insist that German growth will be up by 2.5 per cent this year.

The tax assessors, who have been in conclave since yesterday, are set to confound these sums. Average unemployment for 1997 is likely to be 4.2 million and every 100,000 extra jobs lost costs the state around DM3 billion (£1.1 billion) in additional payments with lost tax on top of that. That means a gaping hole of around DM10 billion in the budget. Some economic analysts say the shortfall should be as much as DM20 billion.

> ‘Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, is beginning to look like Gary Cooper in *High Noon*’

The Government has very few options available. Even deeper public spending cuts could trigger serious industrial unrest. The Government is stuck in boggy negotiations with the Opposition over tax reform, including the possible raising of VAT and a slight rise in petrol tax.

If tax rises are to make sense they have to be part of an package that cuts labour costs and makes Germany more competitive. But the scope for further social welfare cuts is limited; the Social Democrats will not play ball and the unions are becoming restless.

There is an escape route which will make the sums add up but will also expose Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, to big risks. The talk among government advisers and diplomats is that the European calculus has been changed by the new British Government's declared intention to be one of the leaders of Europe. The three big players — Germany, France and Britain — could announce next year their determination to start a monetary union together, but recognise that the wheels cannot roll before 2000 or 2001.

That would allow Britain time to adjust, could take into account any uncertainties from a change of French Government, and would give time for Germany to hit the entry criteria.

To make it work, there will have to be complex and early negotiations not only between the three larger countries but also with Spain and Portugal, which have been straining to reach the EMU target for 1997, and the smaller European countries who will scent a conspiracy. The political complications of postponement are huge but so, as Germany is beginning to realise, are the problems in meeting the 1997 targets and guaranteeing stability after the start of monetary union.

Yeltsin invitation to Blair as hopes rise for Nato agreement

From Robin Lodge in Moscow

PRESIDENT Yeltsin yesterday telephoned Tony Blair to discuss details of an agreement setting out Russia's relations with Nato, which both sides hope will be ready for signing in Paris on May 27.

He also invited the British Prime Minister to visit Moscow, though no date was set.

Mr Yeltsin instructed Yevgeni Primakov, the Foreign Minister, to take a tough line at his sixth round of negotiations on the Nato agreement last night with Javier Solana, the Nato Secretary-General.

The Russian President had earlier suggested that he might intervene personally in the talks to assist a successful outcome. But the Kremlin ruled this out yesterday, although it said that Mr Yeltsin was likely to speak to Señor Solana by telephone after the talks.

According to the presidential press service, Mr Yeltsin and Mr Blair agreed that the Russia-Nato agreement would be a key element in strengthening European security and stability.

The Russian President also spoke by telephone to Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and had a similar conversation with President Chirac of France on Monday.

Mr Primakov struck a cautious note of optimism ahead of the talks by expressing the hope that this would be the last round of negotiations before the Paris summit. Officials on both sides say they are very close to a deal, but that Russia is still trying to get further guarantees from the alliance over the deployment of forces and nuclear weapons on the territory of new members who are expected to be asked to join Nato at its Madrid summit in July.

Nato has already said it has no plans or intention to deploy nuclear weapons or permanent forces in these countries, but has refused to make a legally binding commitment.

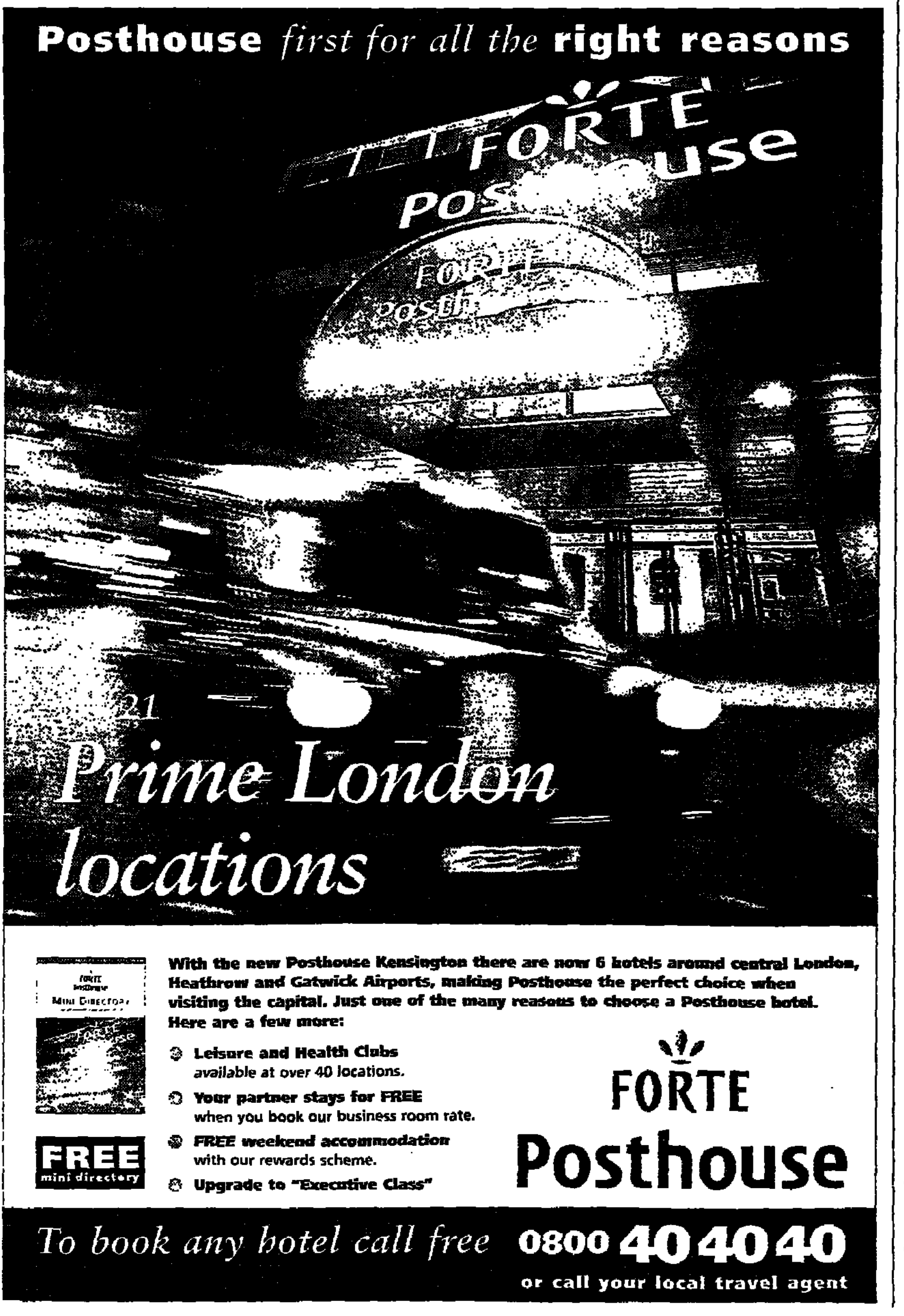
Western diplomats and Russian observers say Russia has accepted that it will get no further major concessions, but is anxious to be seen to be striking a hard bargain for domestic political reasons.

Communist and nationalist opposition leaders have already accused Mr Yeltsin of selling out to the West and sacrificing Russia's national interests.

General Aleksandr Lebed, one of the President's most persistent critics since he was sacked as his security chief last year, added his voice to the hubbub yesterday, describing the proposed agreement as a worthless piece of paper. But he conceded that Nato expansion did not pose much of a threat to Russia.

"I take it calmly," he told Interfax news agency. "The rich and satisfied never attack the poor and hungry. Most often, things happen the other way round."

Nato has made it clear that it will go ahead with its expansion plans — with invitations in the first instance to the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland — irrespective of whether the agreement with Russia is signed.



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Mobutu loyalists call on citizens to take up arms in defence of threatened capital

Curfew in Kinshasa as rebels draw near

CORINE DUFKA / REUTER

Zairean commandos run through streets of Kinshasa as part of their daily routine. Talks today to avert a rebel attack hold the last chance for peace

FROM DAVID ORR IN KINSHASA

ZAIRE imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew in Kinshasa last night and called on its citizens to take up arms as rebels edged closer to the capital.

During the curfew, troops would maintain surveillance over the city's "strategic areas" and open fire on looters, Kin-Kiey Mulumba, the Information Minister, said. "There will be identification controls, and the forces of order have been ordered to open fire on anyone pillaging after three summary warnings," he said after a meeting of the national security council.

He said government forces were preparing to defend the capital, and called on civilians to take up arms against the rebels. "The Zairean Army Forces are determined to defend their just cause and will defend Kinshasa and its environs," Mr Mulumba said.

"The Government signals that the population has the legitimate right to defend itself with proportional means to the rebels," he added.

But few preparations have been made so far by Zairean forces for the defence of Kinshasa, despite the steady encroachment of Laurent Kabila's rebel forces from the east. The curfew was declared in the city after opponents of President Mobutu called for a *ville morte* (dead city) strike from today until Friday.

There is little in the behaviour of either the military or the inhabitants to indicate that the city is under imminent threat of capture by the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire.

The elite Presidential Division has been ordered to fight to the death in defence of Kinshasa, but military observers say that President Mobutu could only rely on the loyalty of half of the unit if an attack was launched on the capital. The number of Garde Civile (National Guard) soldiers who might obey their commanders could be as low as a quarter.

A Western military official in Kinshasa said the Zairean forces had "no loyalty and no training. To defend the capital they would need artillery and engineering equipment. They have some hardware but it hasn't been maintained".

The Zairean Army officially numbers 140,000 men, but analysts believe 75,000 would be more realistic. Less than half of the 30,000 government troops in Kinshasa are believed to be still in their units — the rest have deserted.

"You really wouldn't think an armed force is marching on the city," a military attaché at a Western embassy said. "It's quite bizarre by any military standards. The army commanders are like ostriches, they don't seem to want to know what's facing them. There is no sense of planning."

The lack of defensive measures being taken points to the steady degree of disintegration which has affected all elements of the armed forces since the rebels launched their insurgency last year. "The army is a shambles," the attaché said. "To forestall the rebel advance, the army would need to go out of the city and launch a pre-emptive strike. But there is no sign of this happening."

With the rebel force reportedly less than 100 miles from the capital, it seems that only a last-minute diplomatic solution can prevent the violent overthrow of Mr Mobutu. Talks between the ailing President and Mr Kabila, scheduled for today, are widely seen as the last chance for peace. The United States has already advised its citizens to leave the country and Britain will follow suit if the talks fail.

According to reliable estimates, the rebels could march into Kinshasa within days. "An invasion of Kinshasa could be very bloody," one Mobutu insider said. "The army would have no option but to fight."

But there is growing speculation that the army will capitulate. In eight months of civil war it has engaged the rebel forces on only a few occasions. The only real resistance to the rebels has been mounted by mercenaries fighting alongside the corrupt and dispirited Zairean Army.

Woman seriously wounded as uniformed guerrillas attack UN staff

FROM PETER CAPELLA
IN GENEVA

ARMED men in rebel uniforms have attacked staff of the United Nations Children's Fund at their house in eastern Zaire, amid growing concern about hostility towards aid workers in areas held by Laurent Kabila's Alliance for the Liberation of Congo-Zaïre.

At least one of the two international Unicef workers, a woman, was in a serious condition in hospital yesterday after being beaten by five soldiers in Goma, near the Rwandan border, early on Monday.

Alliance officials told Unicef that the assailants could have been trying to discredit the rebels by wearing their uniforms. But a UN source pointed out that the house was a few hundred yards from local rebel headquarters.

Marie Heuzé, a Unicef spokeswoman in Geneva, said conditions were "not adequate for relief work". The agency had no immediate plans to leave Goma, but there was clearly disquiet. "If we can't work, then we'll have to decide," she said. Fifty-two malnourished children were kidnapped from a Unicef-funded hospital in a nearby village two weeks ago, but later released by rebel soldiers. Several robberies have taken place in recent days.

The UN said in Geneva yesterday that it also deplored the way Mr Kabila's rebel alliance had effectively refused entry to an international mission investigating reports of mass killings carried out in eastern Zaire since September. The rebels were angered by the presence of Roberto Garreton, the UN's special investigator for human rights in Zaire, and set out a series of "unacceptable" conditions.

The UN investigator has repeatedly published witnesses' accounts of mass killings in rebel-held areas. More reports were obtained by the human rights team in Rwanda over the past week. "The task is essential if the culture of impunity and the vicious cycle of violence in the region are to be broken," Ralph Zacklin, the acting head of the UN Human Rights Centre, said.

The mission, which includes forensic experts, is due to report to the General Assembly on June 30. But one official said that it had received only passive support from Western countries which backed Mr Kabila.

Island's elite win right to power

FROM DAVID ADAMS
IN MIAMI

HOMEOWNERS at an exclusive Caribbean island club have won a legal battle with developers who were seeking to close the small resort hotel which provides residents with water and electricity.

On Monday, a judge ordered Arawack, an American company, to keep open its 39-bed hotel at Jumby Bay off the coast of Antigua. Judge Kenneth Benjamin of the High Court of Antigua told Arawack to honour an equity contract with homeowners who have invested in the island.

Residents of Jumby Bay rely on the hotel for power and fresh water, as well as a ferry service between the resort and the mainland. They argued in court that Arawack was obliged to honour a contract with residents who are seeking to preserve the exclusive nature of the island. Arawak, which is 70 per cent owned by John and Harry Mariani, wealthy New York wine distributors, claims the resort is not economically viable. The brothers want to expand the hotel to 100 rooms, turning the island into a more conventional resort.

The homeowners, who include Robin Leach, the broadcaster, the author Ken Follett and his wife, Barbara, the newly-elected Labour MP, and Lord Sainsbury, say they are relieved by the judge's decision but fear the battle is not over.

"I believe that the Marianis are now hell-bent on closing down the whole island," Peter Swann, the club chairman and retired British businessman, said. A spokesman for Arawack said the company was studying the judge's ruling before making any comment.

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Research Results in Direct Customer Benefits

BY NANCY REID

THE DIRECT ARM of insurance giant Norwich Union has plenty of good news for its motor and household policyholders.

Two new policy developments in household insurance confirm that Norwich Union Direct has established its reputation as a leader of the new generation of direct insurers.

When it launched at the beginning of 1996, Norwich Union Direct set out to offer hassle-free and value for money insurance over the phone, following extensive research into public attitudes to buying insurance direct. From the outset Norwich Union Direct have provided its customers with the most convenient access: 6 am - 10 pm week days and 8 am - 4 pm weekends.

Managing director Patrick Smith tells us "Our research confirmed the importance of price to customers, so we make sure our premiums are highly competitive. However, people are also discerning about the type of cover they need and are looking further than price alone to see exactly what they're getting for their money."

Research continues into customer requirements, resulting in an innovative new policy for householders called Ultimate Appliance Breakdown Cover - which could make extended warranties a thing of the past. It offers protection against mechanical and electrical breakdown of major domestic appliances - including cookers, fridges, washing machines, televisions, hi-fi equipment, videos, microwaves and dishwashers. Customers choose from two levels of cover - for appliances up to 5 years old, and for appliances up to eight years old. A low monthly premium covers repair costs, including call-out charges, parts and labour. Premiums start from £6.99 per month.

The second development is improved no-claim discounts on contents insurance - said to be among the most competitive on the market. Discounts of up to 30 per cent reward non claimants. Unlike many insurers, Norwich Union Direct customers will qualify for 10 per cent discount on their premiums after just one single year without a claim.

These innovations, combined with the convenience of organising insurance over the telephone have seen an increasing number of car owners and householders switch to this direct insurer. To find out if you could save money on your insurance, call Norwich Union Direct for a free quotation today. Ring 0800 888 222 for home cover and 0800 888 777 for Ultimate Appliance Breakdown Cover.

Sue's Story

Sue Knowles avoids kitchen crises

When 36 year old Sue Knowles' cooker broke down, she returned home from the theatre with her husband to find the supper still raw in the oven. What turned this small catastrophe into an impending disaster was their expected weekend guests.

"The major problem was not the cost - although it was £80 for the part plus labour" said Sue. "It was the inconvenience of trying to find someone to fix it and fast.

A career lady, Sue's marketing position in the head office of a US food warehouse giant means she is out of the house for up to 12 hours a day, having no time to ring around tradesmen to find the best value.

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Company Director SAVES £125 at home

Anthony Hesse and Family

COMPANY DIRECTOR Anthony Hesse made an excellent deal for himself when he shopped around for building and contents insurance on his four bedroom detached house in Englefield Green - and saved himself £125.

Thirty nine year old Anthony who runs Property Personnel, a recruitment company, applied business logic when it came to insuring his home. "My company matches up people and positions, looking at the requirements of both and judging if they will offer value for money. It is exactly the same with insurance - you need to get a good deal, to find out what is available and what best suits your requirements" he said.

Anthony and his wife Brid received renewal notices for their buildings and contents insurance, both due in the same month - so were particularly keen to look for a good deal. Anthony said "We shopped around, getting quotes from three different companies, all of whom were better than our existing insurer. Out of the three, Norwich Union Direct offered the best and cheapest deal. Now we are paying £250.35 annual premium.

"However, it is not just price saving, you also want to deal with someone you can trust - and that is why I chose Norwich Union Direct. They handle my car insurance, and dealt with a claim I had very efficiently - so I know I will get good service from them. If you treat people properly - whether in the recruitment or insurance business - you will get their loyalty and retain their business."

To find out if you too could save money, call 0800 888 222 for a free quotation.

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AN INDEPENDENT research firm was asked to check out three insurance companies to see how much they would charge a married couple, both aged 36, with no previous claims, for household and car cover.

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IN BRIEF

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هكذا من الاصل

Newspaper backs down over CIA drug deal claims

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

IN A highly publicised correction, a California newspaper has acknowledged that its allegations of CIA involvement in spreading crack cocaine among urban blacks were seriously flawed.

Despite the admission by the *San Jose Mercury News*, the CIA said yesterday it would continue to investigate the allegations that its agents were linked to drug smuggling.

The newspaper's exposé caused an uproar and led to heated protests by black politicians last August. It alleged that the CIA protected two Nicaraguan drug traffickers who introduced crack to black neighbourhoods of Los Angles and sent millions of dollars in profits back home. The money was to support the Contras, a guerrilla force largely financed by the CIA to fight the Marxist-led Sandinista Government.

"Crack was virtually unobtainable in black neighbourhoods before members of the CIA's army began bringing it into South-Central LA," the series said.

The suggestion was so shocking that John Deutch, then director of the agency, flew to the South-Central area to reassure a crowded town meeting. He was given a hostile reception.

Jerry Ceppos, editor of the *Mercury News*, assigned seven reporters and editors to re-examine the series before writing that the newspaper's implication about the CIA and the crack explosion was an "over-simplification".

Although members of the drug ring did meet Contra leaders paid by the CIA, the paper had no proof that top CIA officials knew of the relationship, Mr Ceppos wrote.

He added that in making its error, the newspaper fell short of his standards at every step of the writing, editing and production of the series. Registering strong disagreement was Gary Webb, author of the series, who described his editor's column as bizarre, misleading and nauseating. He is still employed by the paper, despite protests by numerous staff members.

In his explanation to readers, Mr Ceppos said the series, called "Dark Alliance", not only implied CIA knowledge of a crack-selling ring linked to the Contras but did not include CIA comment in response to the paper's findings, as it should have done. "Our contract with readers is to be as clear about what we don't know as what we know," he wrote.

The series implied that drug runners who were Contra sympathisers had been the pivotal force in the crack epidemic in the United States when in fact the roots of the drug's spread were much more complex, Mr Ceppos admitted.

Mr Webb, the reporter, claimed he had been abandoned by the *Mercury News*, with a circulation of 285,000, and that he had more information to confirm his original assertions. Mr Ceppos said that the notes would be looked at.

The series was challenged last autumn by three major newspapers, *The Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times* and *The New York Times*, none of which found clear evidence of a direct link between the drug dealers and CIA.

The CIA said its independent inspector-general was conducting a thorough review of allegations raised by the paper and would report by the end of the year. Maxine Waters, a Democratic black congresswoman for Los Angeles, said she was troubled by the episode. The paper's admission did not alter the fact that Nicaraguan drug traffickers sold crack and sent the profits home, whether the CIA knew or not.

Overpayment by Pentagon

Washington: The Pentagon has overpaid contractors by hundreds of millions of dollars, in part because its antiquated computers cannot "talk" to one another, according to a report released yesterday (*Ian Brodie writes*).

The General Accounting Office said the Defence Department had more than a hundred different accounting systems. Sometimes the same procedures that are used to account for sweets for a children's centre were used to track costly weapons' programmes.

The strike force in action: two members of the team try to calm tempers after coming on a drink-driving car accident in a Boston suburb

'Gangbuster cops' win Boston war

Tom Rhodes **reports from Boston on the success of an undercover police unit tackling youth crime**

THE two members of the Vamp Hill Kings, some of Boston's most vicious black street thugs, swiftly parted company as police officer Kenny Israel parked his unmarked Ford at the corner of Ridgewood Street in the city's gangland. Both were alleged killers known to Officer Israel and his fellow plainclothes colleagues, Officers Dave Singletary and Larry Celester.

James Earl Jones, the gold insignia of his gang on a chain around his neck, smiled at the policemen: "What's up, bro? Nothing doing here." Rubin McCray, the more violent of the two, shuffled to the other side of the street and said nothing.

"He'll have a gun somewhere close by. You can count on that. But he knows we're around and he won't try anything," said Officer Singletary, his diamond earrings glittering in the headlights.

Without the concealed flak jackets, guns and handcuffs, and the small letters of the Boston Police Department stitched to their rollneck jumpers, the officers would be indistinguishable from the gang members. That is exactly how they want it.

The three were all raised in the crime-ridden districts of Roxbury and Dorchester and now belong to Boston's elite Youth Violence Strike Force, the front line of a united defence that has brought the city national and international acclaim. Strathclyde has sent its senior officers to analyse the tactics as a possible model for Glasgow. Tom Menino, Boston's Mayor, was in London last month promoting the city's crime-busting success to the Metropolitan Police.

President Clinton launched his fight against juvenile crime in Boston three months ago. Hundreds of police in the United States, from Alabama to New York, have requested seats at a strategy seminar here this month.

Boston has recaptured its streets from the terror of gang warfare. The Boston Miracle, as it is called, has reduced violent crime by almost 50 per cent in two years, a statistic unimaginable in 1990 when the murder rate hit a record yearly high of 152. Then hundreds of gangs had turned sections of Roxbury and Dorchester into combat zones, spraying streets with bullets over drug territories the police seemed unable to control. Almost no one under 25 dared to walk through the housing projects or basketball courts.

Drug dealers carried out shootings in cars and on bicycles. The gangs disrupted the courts at will, failed to heed probation orders and intimidated so many witnesses that one judge called for the National Guard to secure law and order.

But today, armed with an innovative, low-cost programme that has united all arms of the criminal defence system and which is backed by the clergy, schools and even research from Harvard, Boston is winning the war.

A paper by the Kennedy School at Harvard showed that 75 per cent of Boston crime was committed by about 1,300 people. Almost all are now known to members of Operation Ceasefire such as Officer Israel. Last year murders dropped to a 30-year low of 59.

The number of non-lethal shootings was halved between 1995 and 1996. School violence is down 20 per cent. Most remarkable of all, at a time when US teenagers are 12 times more likely to die in crossfire than their counterparts in the rest of the industrialised world, no Boston teenager under 17 has been killed by a gun or a knife since July 1995.

"We were tripping over shell cases in 1990," said Paul Evans, Boston's police commissioner. "Back then, there were serious questions about the viability of the city. We really had no sense of the gang structure, and not very good intelligence.

"We were just reacting to murder after murder. Now we have a pro-active, comprehensive and collaborative effort to combat gang crime."

Commissioner Evans holds twice-weekly crime analysis meetings with all the captains of his districts at which plans are formulated. The strategy is simple. Officer Israel and his colleagues provide an intelligence network, based on trust, combined with a "zero tolerance" towards gangs, guns and drugs. Warrants for the smallest offence — traffic violations and even unpaid parking tickets — can lead to immediate arrest.

Probation officers have joined forces with the police to visit clients unannounced. The commissioner believes blanket curfews are unworkable, but court order violations are acted on immediately. Judges have jailed whole gangs.

"Two years ago we wouldn't have dared come here alone," said Officer Israel. "The most important thing we have done is take fear off the streets."

Gingrich pitches in

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

IN A conspicuous show of volunteerism, members of Congress, led by Newt Gingrich, yesterday promised to roll up their sleeves and build houses for two poor families in a blighted area of Washington.

Mr Gingrich, the Republican House Speaker, announced the bipartisan scheme for the "Houses that Congress Built" while the families who will benefit and will own the new houses beamed at his side. Dozens of members of Congress, their relatives and staffs have promised to pitch in to help.

Work starts next month and the families hope to be settled in by October, when they will throw a thank-you party for the "sweat equity" expended by their distinguished building crew.

The homes are sponsored by Habitat for Humanity, the volunteer organisation for which Jimmy Carter, the former President, has been banging in nails for the past 20 years. Its founder, Millard Fuller, describes the concept of serving others through manual labour as the "theology of the hammer".

By next year every member of Congress will be invited to build a Habitat home in his or her own constituency. The organisation also plans to extend its activities abroad.

Syphilis survivors win apology

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

PRESIDENT Clinton will formally apologise on Friday to the survivors and descendants of 400 black men who were used as guinea pigs in a notorious medical study.

The "Tuskegee experiment" — named after the small town in Alabama where it took place — was a secret government study of "untreated syphilis in the Negro male". It began in 1932 and ended only after it was uncovered by newspaper reporters in 1972. Its purpose was to see what would happen if the disease was left untreated.

The black share-croppers of Tuskegee were lured into government clinics with the promise of free medical treatment.

There, doctors identified the men who suffered from syphilis and earmarked them for the study.

The men were left untreated or offered placebos instead of medicine while the doctors observed how they deteriorated over time.

No one was offered a consent form to sign, nor even told the real purpose of the study. All but eight of the men have died.

In response to a lawsuit, the US Government set up a $9 million (£5.5 million) compensation fund for the survivors and their families. They were also given lifelong medical benefits. But campaigners and civil rights groups have fought for a presidential apology.

Many have come to regard the Tuskegee experiment as a metaphor for medical racism in America. Albert Jukes, the son of one of the share-croppers used in the study, told *The New York Times* recently: "It was one of the worst atrocities ever heaped on people by the Government. You don't treat dogs that way."

Yesterday, a White House aide said: "We consider it a moral obligation to apologise on behalf of the Government of the United States for what happened in Tuskegee, Alabama."

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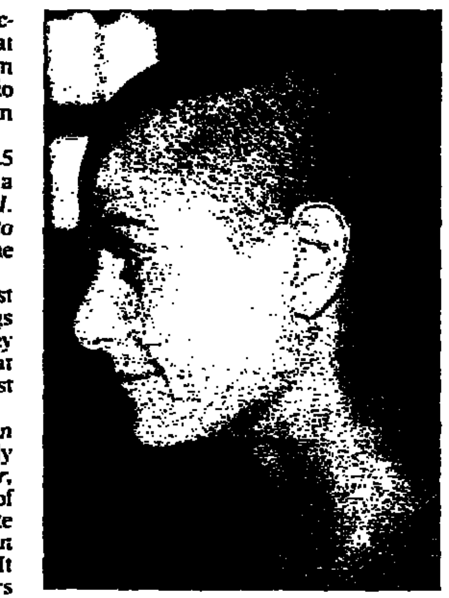
Disney finds less is Moore

Los Angeles: *Hollywood's best-paid actress is so unpopular with audiences that her latest film has been withdrawn from its summer release date so that the studio can rethink its marketing campaign (Giles Whittell writes).*

Demi Moore, who commands $12.5 million (£8 million) per film, appears in a forthcoming Disney drama entitled *G.I. Jane* as a navy lieutenant hoping to become the first female member of the elite Navy Seals.

But audiences are unimpressed. Test screenings revealed deep misgivings about Moore, if not the film, a Disney executive admitted. "We don't know what to do," he told *Newsweek*. "People just don't want to see her."

The actress who made her name in *Ghost* and *A Few Good Men* has recently had three big flops: *The Scarlet Letter*, *The Juror*, and *Striptease*. The last of these featured Ms Moore as a desperate single mother dancing in nothing but nipple tassles to support her child. It eventually recouped its costs but appears to have irrevocably cheapened its star's image.



Moore: closely cropped for her starring role in *G.I. Jane*

Expectations are high at Nevada school

New York: A high school in Nevada has been hit by a blizzard of protest after it included photographs of the school's many pregnant students in its yearbook (Tunku Varadarajan writes).

By tradition, there is no text more wholesome in America than a school yearbook. Yet the Battle Mountain High School — in Battle Mountain — has dared to flout the norms of the genre this year by running a two-page feature on birth rates and expectancy in the school's classrooms.

The feature, entitled "Don't drink the water", was intended to be funny, but local teenage pregnancy prevention groups have not yet seen the joke. Carol Hensley, a co-chairwoman of the Battle Mountain Community Against Teen Pregnancy Committee, said: "I think our whole team's opinion is that the yearbook is glorifying teen pregnancy. It is just glossing over the seriousness of children having children."

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Japanese envoy to Lima sacked over hostage ordeal

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

THE Japanese Ambassador to Peru, who won praise for samurai-like fortitude during a four-month ordeal as a hostage of the Tupac Amaru rebels, has lost his job for failing to anticipate the attack on his Lima residence.

Morihisa Aoki, 58, discovered that his career was over during parliamentary questioning yesterday on the extent of his responsibility for the security lapses that allowed the Lima hostage crisis to occur. Without betraying a flicker of emotion, he listened as Yukihiko Ikeda, the Foreign Minister, announced that the Government had decided to accept his offer to resign.

The Ambassador had been summoned to parliament to explain why he had decided to host a gala party to celebrate the birthday of Japan's Emperor on December 17 last year which was attacked by guerrillas of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA), who raided the residence and took hundreds of guests hostage. Most were freed soon afterwards.

The hostage crisis ended on April 22 when Peruvian commandos stormed the residence. One of the 72 hostages and two soldiers died in the raid, in which all 14 rebels were killed. But Mr Aoki's ordeal has continued ever since with his handling of the crisis coming under critical analysis in Japan.

During his testimony, Mr Aoki apologised for "an incident that caused massive pain to a number of people". But he denied that he had been forewarned of a terrorist attack or refused extra security offered by Peruvian authorities on the day of the reception.

On the contrary, he said he had been told by police that the terrorists were inactive, and there was little risk of an attack. Nevertheless, he had reinforced security by deploying an extra 14 or 15 men to join the seven guards on duty; he said that was ample for such a reception.

Mr Aoki was reported to have conducted himself during the siege with the fortitude of the samurai warrior class from which he is descended. When the rebels' gunfire sent guests at the reception diving for cover, Mr Aoki stood his ground, appealing to the attackers to stop shooting. As the siege dragged on, he engaged the guerrillas in a dialogue that blunted their aggressive edge.

But on his return to Japan his heroic image began to fade. Mr Aoki annoyed some Japanese journalists with his abrasive response to their questions. Astonishingly, he came in for criticism for chain-smoking during a news conference, considered unseemly behaviour in a public servant, even one who had endured 127 days of captivity.

But his most serious sin, in a society that sets great store by displays of repentance, was that he initially failed to make a sufficiently "sincere" apology to the nation for security lapses, in the view of some members of parliament.

Even so, the Government's decision to relieve Mr Aoki of his post was unexpected. Though he submitted his resignation last week, it was seen as a symbolic gesture, and Mr Aoki had expressed a wish to return to Peru to resume his duties.

His departure signalled the end of a career for an ambassador who was closely linked by his family to Latin America. Mr Aoki's father and grandfather were both also well-known Japanese diplomats in the region.

It is not clear when Mr Aoki's resignation will take effect or if he will remain in Japan's diplomatic service. Prior to his Peru assignment, Mr Aoki was a senior official of the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the aid arm of the Foreign Ministry.

He also served as a Deputy Foreign Minister and chief of the ministry's intelligence and research bureau.

☐ **Quake damage:** A strong earthquake with a magnitude of 6.2 hit Japan's southern island of Kyushu yesterday, injuring 27 people and damaging some houses. *(AP)*

MARIE HIPPENMEYER / EPA

Morihisa Aoki, the Japanese Ambassador to Peru, shortly after he and the other hostages were released last month

Colony wins civil rights reprieve

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

TUNG CHEE-HWA, the Chief Executive-designate, appears set to retreat over his proposed restrictions on civil rights in Hong Kong, after widespread local and international alarm.

The move, which is a profound political reversal, must have been approved by the Beijing leadership and, if so, marks a setback for Chinese and local hardliners.

Mr Tung's office has hinted that he will deliver a speech this week to announce the rolling back of his initial plans that would have required protesters to apply for police approval to stage demonstrations and to bar foreigners from funding political groups in the colony. An adviser to Mr Tung said: "The hardliners got their way with the original drafting. I think you'll be surprised by how different the final law is."

The impending climbdown was signalled last week by Henry Tang, a member of Mr Tung's Executive Council. He said "liberal proposals" to cut restrictions on political activity would be "finalised" this week. Bills will be tabled before the Beijing-appointed Provisional Legislative Council on Saturday.

Mr Tang is a member of both the wholly elected Legislative Council and the Beijing-appointed body due to take its place after the handover on July 1.

One of Mr Tung's original proposals states that those intending to protest must seek the permission of police who would decide whether the potential demonstration threatens "national security". The Bar Council and the Law Society condemned it as a throwback to the repressive laws of the colonial period.

Mr Tang has suggested that the proposed law could be redrafted to resemble the one in existence today, under which protesters merely notify police. He said if there was no police response after a certain period it could be "deemed" that approval had been given.

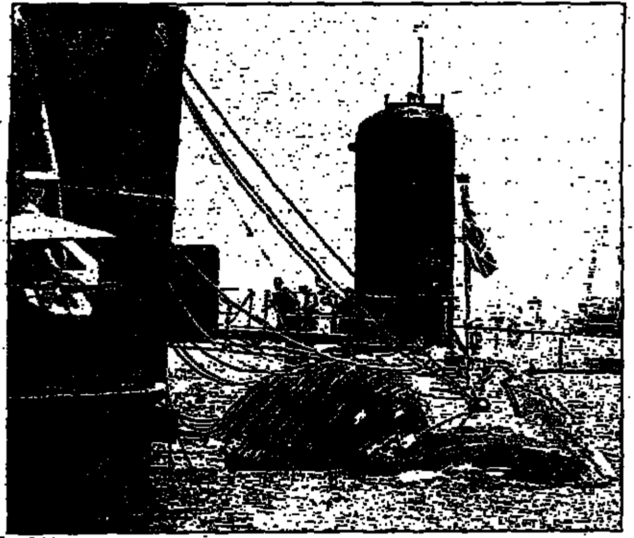
The second proposed law, that led to a backlash from the legal profession, academics and journalists, would have required political parties to register with police. It would also have made it illegal for "aliens" to donate money to political parties.

Mr Tang conceded that "the net has been cast too wide" and noted that foreigners with residence rights in Hong Kong, such as the more than 150,000 workers from the Philippines here, and "someone walking past a collection box and throwing in ten dollars" should be able legitimately to make contributions.

For several weeks the Beijing-aligned Liberal Party, of which Mr Tang is a leading member, has been suggesting that Mr Tung's proposed laws should be modified.

Mr Tung is now in a position to tell Beijing that he has vigorously defended savage cuts in restrictions to Hong Kong's civil rights laws. These have now met reasoned objection in Hong Kong and provoked warnings from the United States about the colony's international standing after the handover.

Beijing is also well placed to say that under "one country, two systems" it has listened to the voice of Hong Kong and urged Mr Tung to be sensible and sympathetic. If this attitude was translated into less stringent civil rights rules, Mr Tung would have a far easier local and international ride.



Crewmen from *HMS Trenchant*, the Royal Navy nuclear-powered submarine, disembark yesterday after the vessel arrived in Hong Kong. She is part of the task force assisting the British withdrawal.

Fishermen found after 150 days

Majuro: Two Kiribati fishermen lost at sea in a 12½ ft boat five months ago have turned up alive in the Marshall Islands long after they were given up for dead. The two arrived here yesterday and flew home.

Takuu Katatia, of Betio, said that on December 10 he and his nephew Tamango Teitika, from Maiana Atoll, were out on a fishing trip between the atoll of Kiribati, and Maiana, an island about 25 miles to the south.

They were making their third trip of the day between the two islands, taking their catches back to Maiana, when bad weather blew up and they lost their way.

Their odyssey continued until they sighted land at Mili Atoll in the southern Marshalls last Friday, 150 days after they were lost and 350 miles northwest of where they were lost.

As the sun beat down on them day after day, their eyes became swollen and their mouths and tongues cracked and blistered. However, they had fishing lines and hooks on board, so were able to catch fish. Over the five months, they saw a number of ships passing at a distance, but none saw them. *(AFP)*

'Unelectable' Peres slow to surrender party leadership

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ALMOST a year after Shimon Peres lost his fifth general election as Labour leader, Israel's main opposition party yesterday began formal proceedings to dump him. The move provoked envious comparisons with the speed of John Major's exit as leader of the Conservatives.

Mr Peres, 73, has stubbornly refused to retire gracefully, insisting that a new post of Active Party President should be created for him, and soft-pedalling his opposition to the accident-prone Government of Binyamin Netanyahu in the vain hope of being invited to join a new coalition.

Supporters of Ehud Barak, 55, the former Chief of Staff and Foreign Minister who is favourite to succeed Mr Peres when internal elections are staged on June 3, expressed fury and frustration at what they saw as the Labour Party leader's reluctance to stand down with dignity and surrender power to a younger generation.

In addition to Mr Barak, three other contenders will stand on June 3 to lead Labour against Mr Netanyahu in 2000: Yossi Beilin, 48, a key architect of the Oslo peace process; Ephraim Sneh, 52, former Health Minister and rank outsider; and Shlomo Ben-Ami, 53, the former ambassador to Spain.

After the unedifying sight of Mr Peres, the 1994 Nobel Peace Laureate, struggling to hang on to some trappings of power after a defeat which led even Labour Party faithful to pronounce him "unelectable", Mr Major's behaviour has been repeatedly held up as an example of correct democratic practice.

Meanwhile, another upset hit the Netanyahu administration yesterday, with the resignation of Israel's new Ambassador to Jordan after only eight days in the post.

In a sharp resignation letter, Oded Eran, one of only two Israeli envoys serving in the Arab world, complained that he had been left in the dark over last week's secret talks in Aqaba between Mr Netanyahu and King Hussein. Mr Netanyahu's office said it had been the job of Israel's Foreign Ministry to inform the ambassador of the meeting.

WORLD SUMMARY

Rush-hour bomb in Beijing

Beijing: A bomb went off last night in central Beijing next to the Forbidden City, writes James Pringle. The explosion occurred at rush-hour in a park near Tiananmen Square. Officials linked the blast to Muslim separatists in Xinjiang. No one was reported to have been injured.

The last bomb blast reported in the city was in early March, when eight people were injured. Violent crime is on the rise in China, despite the recent "strike hard" campaign in which more than 2,000 people were executed.

Big response to Iran plea

Nicosia: The Red Cross praised the international response to its Iranian earthquake appeal as one of the most swift and generous ever, as more than half the £5 million requested was raised by Monday (Michael Theodoulou writes). Iran, meanwhile, lowered the total of victims of the Saturday quake to 1,560 killed and 2,810 injured from the earlier casualty toll of 2,400 dead and 6,000 injured.

China rebuke for Manila

Manila: China has warned the Philippines that relations could be jeopardised if Manila's naval forces made further intrusions near the contested Spratlys in the South China Sea (Abby Tan writes). Beijing accused Manila of driving away Chinese fishing boats and of disrupting "a joint international amateur radio exploration activity" in the area last month.

Volcano alert for airlines

Mexico City: Aircraft were banned from flying near the Popocatepetl volcano as fresh plumes of ash shot high into the sky and were carried by winds 140 miles east to the Gulf of Mexico. But officials appealed for calm in villages surrounding the volcano, which has been rumbling since December 1994. *(AP)*

Witch report

Kampala: A new commission of "super witches" is to use its extraordinary powers to stamp out malpractice after a series of suspicious deaths, the Ugandan government newspaper *New Vision* said. *(AFP)*

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هكذا من الاجل

Cherie, your country needs you

Who will save Labour's idealistic, visionary and utterly dowdy Class of '97 from years of brightly coloured polyester?

It was the Editor of *Vogue* who came up with one of the saddest reflections of the post-election hangover. She was, she confided to *The Guardian* this week, fascinated by the outfits worn by the 96 new Labour Babes clustered around Tony Blair in a victory rally on the steps of Church House. "I'm interested in *Vogue* sort of not being in a different world to them," she said. But on closer investigation, it proved impossible to find even one new MP with sufficient glamour to appear in the pages of her magazine.

Well, looking at That Photograph, you rather see what she means. Clustered around their leader, all got up for the occasion in what are presumably their very best outfits, the female arm of the Labour Party looks like nothing so much as an exceptionally nasty example of municipal planting — Margaret Beckett in shrieking geranium pink; Ann Taylor in blinding lobelia blue; Linda Perham in cruel French marigold orange and Patricia Hewitt in a jacket covered in writhing herbiage of a kind usually heralded by a sign reading "Britain in Bloom, runner-up, 1997". Now municipal planting has many advantages — it is impervious to sudden storms; mud does not stick to it; it is resistant to all the slimy pests and blights that congregate to attack it — its horticultural and political virtues are legion. What it is not, however, is attractive.

Still, the Editor of *Vogue*, accustomed as she is to dealing on a daily basis with Naomi and Linda and Cindy and Kate, perhaps exaggerates a little. Can there really be no one at all among the Blairettes with a sense of style? It is not that one expects one's political representatives to waft into the chamber, trailing yards of leopardskin chiffon from Dolce & Gabbana (though why not, actually?). We are, of course, already intimate with the wardrobes of such Tory ladies as have held on to their seats, and there is certainly not much joy to be found there — but surely among the new blood, one might expect a little glamour.

Patricia Hewitt: writhing herbiage

Let us look again at the photograph. Of the very back row of ladies, only their windblown hairdos and sensible glasses are visible. Perhaps from the neck down they are miracles of inspired dressing. Or then again, perhaps they follow the pattern of their all-too-visible colleagues in the front rows, with their terrible shoes, their skirts brutally terminated at midcalf or bang on the kneecap; their ill-cut jackets (every single shoulder pad a good inch too wide — the result, no doubt, of the baleful influence of Barbara Follett, she of the bile-green two-piece and criminally matching court shoes).

This being new Labour, there is, to be sure, no question of effort not being made. On the contrary, the stilted poses, the dreadful hair, somehow unkempt and over-lacquered both at the same time, the fussy little scarves and jaunty bits of costume jewellery all bellow effort with deafening clarity. So why does the team photograph of Mr Blair's new girls so eerily resemble a convention of successful Avon Ladies? Did their constituencies make them swear an oath, on pain of deselection, to wear nothing but ill-fitting polyester two-pieces?

Painful as it is to admit, they do these things better in France, where the election campaign is still in full swing, with a record number of women candidates, quantities of whom have appeared in a photoshoot for *Paris-Match*. Like their British counterparts, the French candidates come in a variety of shapes and ages. The difference is that the Editor of *Vogue* would have not the slightest difficulty in filling her entire magazine with political glamour-pusses from across the Channel.

Ignoring, for a moment, the painful injury to our national self-esteem, let us examine the reasons for this. To begin with, it has nothing to do with looks. One or two of the Frenchwomen are beauties, it is true — at the age of 48, Elisabeth Guigou, President Mitterrand's former Minister for Europe, and a graduate of ENA, the fearsomely competitive school for administrators, was photographed for *Paris-Match* by Helmut Newton — but most, like the Brits, have the pleasant, ordinary faces of the ordinary women they are. Nor do the French give the impression of being addicted to couture. Indeed, many of the candidates are very young — in their mid-twenties — and evidently dressed on a modest budget. But their hair is properly cut and shining, their jewellery is real, their shoes are elegant and polished. Above all, they look comfortable in their skins. They look, in fact, sexy.

Now sexiness is not a quality much valued in British politics, where it makes the chaps come over all uncomfortable. English political commentators, confronted with Mme Guigou during her ministerial years, tended to burble incoherently about icy glamour and *seduction froide*. "Intelligence has never been a hindrance to sexiness in France," wrote one, rather wistfully.

This is not a view that has penetrated as far as the boys' club of the House of Commons, where intelligence and sexiness among the female members are regarded as not merely incompatible but thoroughly reprehensible.

In France, it is not merely possible to be clever *and* sexy — it is positively necessary. It is a a way of getting what you want — and also, to be sure, a way of making life more amusing. Why, after all, wear a hideous frock to debate the EMF when it is just as easy to wear a pretty one?

In England, for some reason, women who aspire to both power and sexiness are regarded with grave suspicion. Not individually, of course — many politicians have wives, of notable intelligence and allure, without whom they would be in very bad trouble indeed — but *en masse*, where there exists the possibility that they might get the upper hand, they still provoke a remarkable degree of fear and loathing.

It is surely an unconscious acknowledgment of that fact that lies behind the apologetic demeanour of those women in their moment of triumph outside Church House. There they all are, doing what British women do best — trying to fade into the background, lest anyone notice they have made an attempt to look attractive and punish them for it.

What *is* to become of the Class of '97 — so idealistic, so committed to change, so full of vision, so unutterably dowdy? Really, someone should take the lot of them in hand before it is too late, and they have filled their cupboards with enough brightly coloured polyester to last them for Ten More Years. But *who?* Barbara Follett has done quite enough harm. And it is hardly a job for Peter Mandelson.

But even the exigent Editor of *Vogue* could not find fault with the style of Cherie Blair, whose outfits during her husband's campaign were a miracle of middle-of-the-road chic; who is never less than soignée; who always has her lipstick on straight, and who even knows how to cry prettily in public. She's a very busy woman, it is true, but when the finger of destiny points . . . Cherie, your country needs you.

BENJAMIN AUGER

Frédérique Bredin, left, Elisabeth Guigou, and Ségolène Royal — all former French ministers, all comfortable in their skins

CHRIS HARRIS

Tony Blair surrounded by his team of women MPs, who so eerily resemble a convention of successful Avon Ladies

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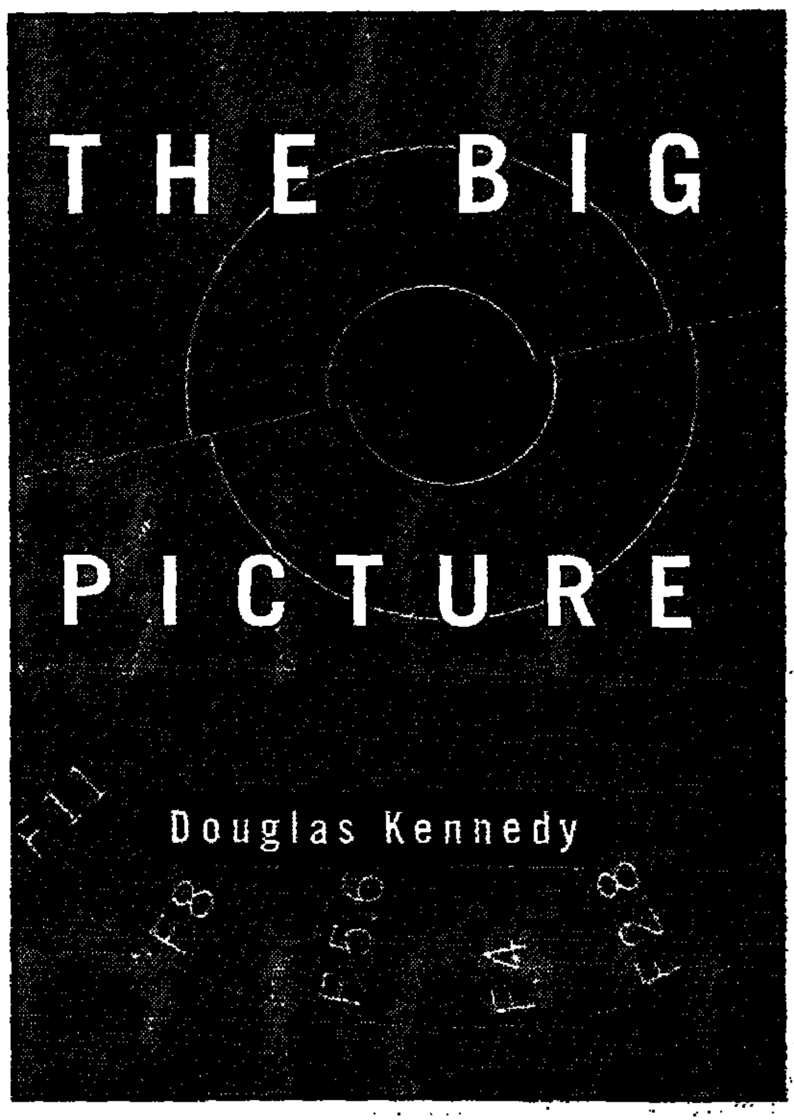

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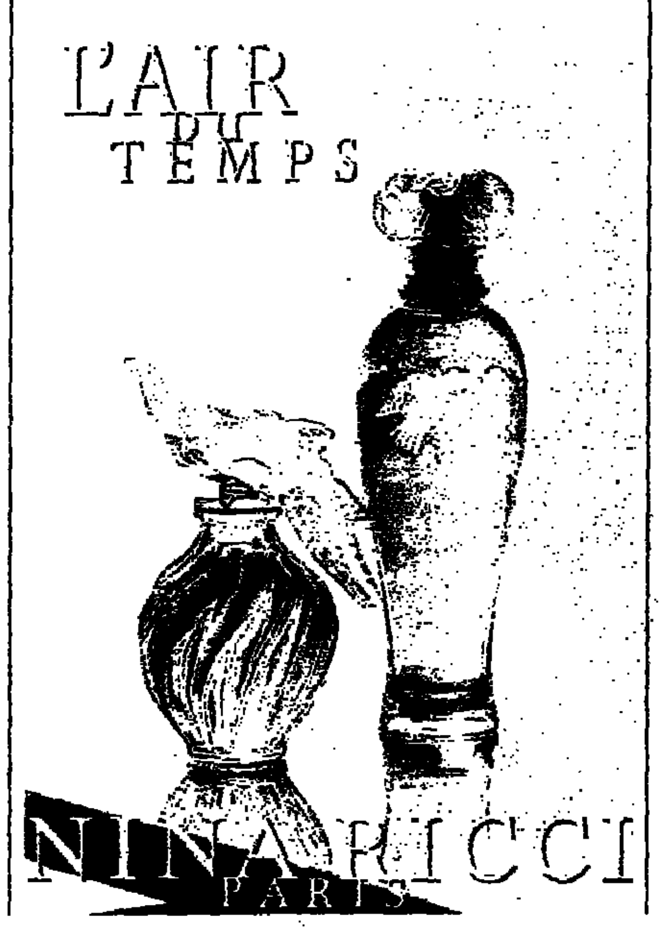

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"I still think the perfect day is one where I am hopelessly overscheduled. The more you work. the better you do. It is that simple"

Master of the Universe

Ex-bond salesman Michael Bloomberg has taken the financial world by storm. Interview by **Bronwen Maddox**

Michael Bloomberg is as rich, successful, fond of glamorous women and keen on publicity as it is possible to be without being a household name.

But in the City or Wall Street he is as good a contender as any for the title of Master of the Universe. Sitting in his headquarters on Manhattan's Park Avenue, in a meeting room plastered with articles about himself, he tells how the heads of the great Wall Street investment banks teasingly greet him as "Your Eminence". "I love it," he says. "Adulation is great."

He has earned it. In 15 years, he has taken the financial markets by storm, selling them a package of data, news and computing power, and stealing business from under the noses of the giants Reuters and Dow Jones. The Bloomberg group employs 2,000 people around the world and its revenue last year was $700 million. That success has made its creator a billionaire, allowed him to become a prominent philanthropist, and dubbed him "America's most eligible bachelor".

In his entertaining autobiography *Bloomberg by Bloomberg*, he tells how he did it. Long on exclamation marks, his book, like that of many successful businessmen, is short on reflection; he may have made his fortune by selling analysis but applies little to himself.

But although the book lives up to Bloomberg's reputation for brashness and ebullience, with chapter headings such as "Capitalism, here I come" and "I love Mondays", it appears to have been written principally from a generous impulse: the conviction that his example will encourage others.

Bloomberg, now 55, was born in Medford, a blue-collar community in Massachusetts, "on Valentine's Day". His father, from an East European immigrant family, was a bookkeeper for a dairy company and his mother a strong-minded housewife. Bloomberg remembers his parents' insistence on standards: "The food didn't come out in pots: only serving dishes came to the table."

After training as an engineer, Bloomberg made his way to Salomon Brothers, the Wall Street powerhouse. As one of their star bond salesman, he lived the part: "As a bachelor with a big expense account, I had a girlfriend in every city, skied in every resort, ate in every four-star restaurant, and never missed a Broadway play."

Increasingly outspoken about the management's failings, as he saw them, he was sidelined to computer systems, and then sacked when the partnership sold up, albeit with $10 million from his share of the proceeds.

Pressed on what he felt at the time about his stalled career and being fired after 15 years service aged 39, he says: "I can't really remember. I wasn't devastated." As he puts it in the book: "I never look over my shoulder. Once finished, gone. Life continues."

The only note of self-doubt comes in a passage the week after he left Salomon's: "I ordered a sable jacket for my wife, Sue. I was worried that Sue might be ashamed of my new, less visible status and concerned I couldn't support the family. A sable jacket seemed to say 'No sweat. We can still eat. We're still players'."(She was delighted.)

'A sable jacket seemed to say, *no* sweat, we can still eat'

Many would find $10 million in the bank enough reassurance. But deciding that retirement would be boring, Bloomberg set about selling Wall Street a package of price information and, crucially, the software to analyse it. Some of the best passages describe Bloomberg and his colleagues installing the first terminals themselves, crawling under desks, through old McDonald's hamburger wrappers and mousedroppings to drill holes for their cables.

Matthew Winkler, Bloomberg's Editor-in-Chief, who is credited with offering "invaluable help" in the book, spearheaded the move into reported news. Customers can now use a single screen to run tests on their portfolios, send e-mail, watch international television news or book a flight.

The Park Avenue building is the hub of that network. "It's the Bloomberg buzz," one employee says, gesturing at the whirl of people having meetings or rushing to dip into the coffee, fruit and chocolate on tap in the foyer. Tropical fish in floor-to-ceiling tanks are supposed to add calm, but have caught the agitation.

Bloomberg, who has gone to lengths to strip away hierarchical divisions, cares fiercely about loyalty: if an employee leaves, he will not attend the going-away party. The newsroom is designed like a Wall Street trading floor, divided only by low partitions. "Mike sits there, when he sits," one said, pointing to a desk in the corner. On cue, Bloomberg's slight 5ft 9in figure emerges from a standing huddle of colleagues, incredulous that someone has had the leisure to leave a two-minute message on his voice mail.

"I still think the perfect day is one where I'm hopelessly overscheduled," he says. Jog early in the morning and get to work by 7 am is his ideal start. After layers of phone calls, e-mails, video-conferences, stand-up meetings, he allows himself "an early dinner with customers or a group of employees, followed by a second one with friends where I actually get a chance to stop talking and eat". At the end "I fall into bed, exhausted but satisfied with the day's accomplishments."

"The more you work, the better you do. It's that simple. I'm sure someone, some place, is smart enough to succeed while 'keeping it in perspective' and not working too hard, but I've never met him or her." He particularly respects "your guy Branson. He's a doer".

But, as his book repeatedly acknowledges, "having a business career and raising a family create inherent conflicts". The breakup of his 20-year marriage three years ago is, he has said, a deep regret. Despite his divorce, he is still close to his wife and spends every weekend with his daughters, Emma, 17, and Georgina, 14.

He has "pretty much a steady girlfriend" now, a writer close to his own age. But although he says "my friends would have expected me to have married again by now", he shrugs and grins when asked if that is imminent. Bachelor is a big word in the Bloomberg vocabulary.

There are, though, questions about the future of the business. Both Reuters and Dow Jones's struggling Telerate are stepping up investment. He gave in to pressure last year to "go open" — allow customers to take Bloomberg's service into their own equipment. But as one London analyst remarks: "He still wants you to pay the full price for another terminal if you just pipe it to another PC."

Above all, there is the threat of a sustained slump which might prompt customers, who have Bloomberg and Reuters terminals, to pick just one. But despite constant press speculation, Bloomberg is adamant he is not about to cash in on the good times and sell the company or float it. However, he insists: "If I drop dead, the board has two years to sell. You can't run things from the grave." He wants his daughters to manage a trust to give his fortune to good causes.

Here, the Mirror Group uses Bloomberg to provide *The Independent's* business news, and Bloomberg and David Montgomery, Mirror Group's chief executive, have discussed starting a rival to the *Financial Times*. It appeals to his sense that long-established companies with few competitors "are usually easy to beat". But he worries, with reason, that "you can lose a lot of money starting newspapers". As he says in the book: "It's one thing to bet the store when the store is worthless, and quite another when you're older and tired, and have gotten used to the good life." Given the philosophy he has expounded in the rest of the book, that is an unconvincing exit line: it certainly gives his rivals little reason to relax.

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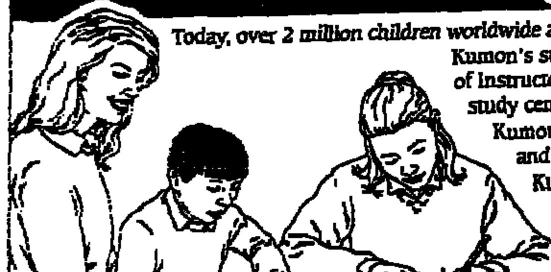

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Forget schools, mothers should be teaching cookery

More half-baked ideas on home economics

The Prime Minister is said to be as passionate about food — always a good sign in a person — as he is about education, so perhaps Prue Leith's lecture yesterday on the importance of teaching cookery at school will hold some sway. Her requests are, to start off with at least, reasonable enough. Pupils should learn what to do with raw ingredients, how to cook: their lessons should be in food preparation rather than — as they often are now — in food technology. How could anyone argue?

But I do have some sympathy for schools here, which are anyway giving cookery instruction in home economics classes. And they must be fed up with being criticised for what are (certainly in this case) parental shortcomings. I know that we're all supposed to be too busy these days to cook, but if we are the ones giving our children shop-bought stuff, we can hardly blame teachers for not imbuing our young ones with a love of the domestic arts.

Presumably, the highly suspect subject of home economics exists to rectify the situation. It must have been in the late-ish Seventies that cookery was given such an elevated title: when I started cookery lessons, the subject was called domestic science, and by the time I escaped it was home economics. And in between I learnt absolutely nothing. If it weren't for the fact that my mother taught me how to cook, by example rather than instruction, I wouldn't be able to cook now. I watched her and learnt. I helped, too, with stirring and sauce-making, standing on a rickety wooden chair shoved up close to the stove. Dangerous, but invaluable, too.

Nigella Lawson

I know women go out to work now and that there is no time to provide some notional domestic idyll, the air thick with the steam from a batch of buns, but that was not my childhood, either.

There are, therefore, two main flaws in the belief that cookery lessons will teach children how to cook: the first is that most cookery teachers cannot cook, or cannot cook anything one would want to eat; the second is that it's not what children are taught at school but what they see around them, and eat at home that matters.

I concede, though, that if children never see anything more culinarily edifying than the inside of the microwave at home, then they are painfully in need of some basic instruction at school. But where I disagree with Prue Leith is the form that instruction should take. Learn how to make pasta? How idiotic. Even Italian schoolchildren are not taught how to make pasta at school. But then Italian schoolchildren are not taught cookery at school at all: what does this tell us? Anyway, television, newspapers and magazines are full of recipes for pasta and suchlike. What children — and not only children — fail to grasp along the way is how long chicken needs to be roasted per pound, what to do with different cuts of lamb, and all that sort of thing. Mind you, meat cookery is probably out at most schools now, and not just on the grounds of cost. Cookery cannot be taught without concomitant instruction in "nutrition", which means demonising anything with meat or fat in it. Thus, the daughter of a friend of mine was given a recipe for biscuits, with a request by the cookery teacher that she adapt it to be a low-fat recipe. This is hardly guaranteed to instil anyone with a love of cooking (or eating).

It makes sense to encourage everyone to have a go themselves to see how easy, for example, it is to make a sponge cake or grill a pork chop, but I am a realist. Which leads me to argue that it is not the children who should be packed off to cookery lessons but, in most cases, their parents.

* * *

POOR Terence Conran: he builds restaurants for us, builds shops for us, stocks them both with good food, and do we thank him for his trouble? No. We mock his enthusiasm and now, with the opening today of his mega-emporium, the Bluebird Gastrodrome on the King's Road, we start implying that he has megalomaniac tendencies and has to be stopped before he takes over the whole world. If only that were the case. I fear that he hasn't taken over enough. I'm not so worried about London. It's beyond that is really in need of Conranisation. I mean the country: something has got to be done about it. It's not just that the food's bad (the conversation's worse, but I do see that's outside even Sir Terence's remit) but that no one has any taste.

You can't go to a restaurant in the country without being served food with great fanfare under silver-plate cloches, or find a hotel that doesn't have chintzy pretensions to be a stately home. The whole thing makes my urban soul shudder at the aesthetic affront.

And I have often thought, too, that what the current generation of stressed-out young execs really needs doesn't exist: a good-taste health farm. Think white, think smooth, light and plain space, think the Delano in South Beach: think *anything* except the suburban-style nightmares that currently exist. I know that the Conran ethos hardly lends itself to restraint or self-denial, but surely he could oblige and give us just one non-naff, out-of-town retreat.

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The soul of man under new Labour

Illiberal liberals imperil Blair's project, says **Melanie Phillips**

It is very confusing to be a liberal today. We believe we live in a liberal society. But our definition of liberal has become corrupted. It has fallen victim to a mind-set which says the individual is paramount, personal choice and self-fulfilment trump everything else, all values are subjective and there is no such thing as objective right and wrong. These beliefs are not liberalism. They are its antithesis.

It was the so-called liberal refusal to discriminate between prosocial and antisocial behaviour which produced Mandy Allwood with her IVF octuplets, all of whom died, by a man with another family to whom she was not married. Or Diane Blood, whose inalienable right to a child was held to justify administering an electric shock up the backside of an unconscious and dying man to retrieve his sperm without his knowledge or consent. In our schools, "liberal" child-centred education has left thousands of children functionally illiterate. All the evidence indicates that family dismemberment and reorganisation is a disaster for most children, just as lone parenthood is a distressing burden for most women. How can it be liberal to promote such harm?

Yet teachers who resist damaging educational orthodoxies are often penalised by local authority advisers or — even now — Ofsted inspectors. Family researchers who uncover the damage caused by family breakdown have their funding cut off by liberal research bodies. If liberalism is about freedom of expression, defending truth against oppression, tolerating dissent, above all embodying the rule of reason based on evidence, how can all these developments express liberal values?

The insistence that the only alternative to a moral free-for-all is authoritarian oppression indicates serious confusion about what liberal values actually are. That is because liberalism has been corrupted into licence and libertinism. And there are still people in key positions who have every interest in bamboozling the public — maybe even bamboozling the Prime Minister — into believing these trends are being reversed while they are actually being reinforced. Our new Government has pledged itself to repair the social fabric. Yet at the heart of this administration, corrupted liberal values are still entrenched.

The great early liberal thinkers laid down principles which today's corrupted liberals have all but buried. Real liberalism consists of a delicate equilibrium between freedom and equality, and rules and boundaries. It acknowledges the great paradox, that personal freedom can be protected only within a structure of constraints. The disintegration of those constraints and the resulting loss of that crucial equilibrium have created libertarianism on both the political Left and Right. The idea that things are intrinsically right or wrong has given way instead to whether they are expedient.

We appear to have moved into not just a post-modern but a post-moral society. But this cannot therefore be a liberal society. Liberalism was always a moral project. Yet our moral discourse now boils down to two concepts: personal autonomy (the right to make choices) and individual rights (claims made against others). Down this route, liberal values mutate into coercion and hedonism. Freedom and equality turn into absolutes, ends rather than means.

The great question now is whether the Blair Government will re-establish true liberal values — or whether it, too, is fatally compromised by these confusions. The issue is not whether old Labour still has any life in it. There is a profound divide within new Labour between hedonism — the absolute supremacy of individual choice in pursuit of happiness and fulfilment — and moralism, where the individual is constrained to some extent by bonds of duty. In the New Model Labour Government, Jack Straw and Frank Field represent the latter trend. But in the education department, despite David Blunkett's genuine commitment to raising standards, policies and even some key personalities still embody the egalitarian individualism at the heart of the educational malaise. The stated aim to reimpose equality in education; the hostility to diversity; the endorsement of the shift from teacher to learner which has abandoned so many children to ignorance and error; these signals and more indicate that new Labour is alarmingly compromised by values which have undermined the transmission of our culture.

> Tony Blair comes close to saying principle is bunk

Tony Blair has refreshingly declared himself an ideology-free zone. Yet he has also said that what is right is what works. Up to a point, pragmatism is commendable. But this is dangerously close to saying that principle is bunk. Who defines what works? And for whom? For the strong over the weak, the rich over the poor, the lone parent over the married couple, the individual over society? Liberal principles, constantly eroded, have to be shored up by a settled belief in what is right. What works isn't necessarily what's right at all.

The liberal equilibrium is the famous centre ground of politics. The Blair Government has laid noisy claim to this ground. It remains to be seen, though, whether its unresolved inner tensions between hedonists and moralists make that claim insecure. It is an argument which must now take place openly within its ranks. But if new Labour fails to rein back individualism through the restoration of true liberal constraints, then the way is open for a chastened Tory party to reclaim the centre ground that it so irresponsibly vacated.

This is an extract from a lecture to be given tonight at the Centre for Policy Studies. Melanie Phillips is a columnist for The Observer.

LEADERSHIP STAKES

Missionary diplomacy

Robin Cook's foreign policy amounts to meddling in the name of human rights

Simon Jenkins

So now we know. One arm of Her Majesty's Government this week said it would promote the sale of handguns to foreigners who pledge to respect human rights. Another arm said it would ban selling handguns to Britons, human rights or no. Such are the moral ambiguities of foreign policy.

But we must not take Robin Cook's new mission statement too seriously. We are still in the post-election novelty phase. Mission statements are 1980s consultant-speak. Mr Cook had hardly opened his mouth than he said "global economy", "information revolution" and "fibre-optic cable" all in a rush, like a music hall comedian. The nice thing about new Labour is that it is fast becoming old-fashioned, like new Daz.

So what is Britain's foreign policy, unveiled with videos on Monday? Macmillan once wailed that a foreign secretary cannot speak without falling foul of either a cliché or an indiscretion. Mr Cook erred on the side of the former. His spinners claimed that this was his department's first mission statement — two months after Malcolm Rifkind issued something called just that. Most of the new statement is the same as the old. A "stable and peaceful international order" may have become a "strong world community". But the platitudes are the same: about human rights, the Commonwealth, crime and drugs, British interests.

Students in advanced mission-statement studies know that the devil is in what is not said. Mr Cook's most obvious cut is the dropping of "to invigorate the transatlantic relationship". He tried to brush this aside as mere sub-editing. That will not do. Mission statements may be banal but they are written in blood. The Atlantic bond is incompatible with the new Europeanism. The special relationship — the noblest diplomatic affair of the century — has gone, not with a bang but with a pencil.

More intriguing is the spin. The pre-election team left no stone unturned. Leave Britain to one side, what would new Labour mean to the Mongolian shepherd, the Bangkok taxi-driver? They too have their agenda. So the camera picks out an Indian tea-picker, an Eskimo schoolchild, a Japanese microchip salesman, all gazing upwards in beatific awe as the Hale-Blair comet whooshes across the sky. The message for them is not diversity with continuity, not even responsibility with change. It is morality. Out goes pragmatic, opportunistic British diplomacy. New Labour is ethics. Mr Cook declares that "national interest cannot be defined only by narrow realpolitik". From the people who brought you the Iron Lady now comes . . . Holy Tony.

Human rights is to be at the heart of British foreign policy. Britain, says Mr Cook, will go out into the world to support "the demands of other peoples for the democratic rights on which we insist for ourselves". Britain will stamp on autocracy and child labour, impose economic sanctions, refuse arms to aggressive states and publish a league table of repressive governments. This foreign policy has the most interventionist slant of any I can recall. "We are an instant witness in our sitting rooms through the medium of television to human tragedy in distant lands," says Mr Cook. We are therefore "obliged to accept moral responsibility for our response . . ."

This is a firm rejection of the old school of diplomacy, that morality has at best a nodding acquaintance with foreign policy. Mr Cook disagrees with the view of one of his predecessors, Douglas Hurd, that policy must be insulated from "CNN diplomacy", from the instinct to "do something" whenever another of the world's myriad evils has caught the camera's roving eye. He is a Kantian, swayed by the categorical imperative. He wishes to conscript my moral response to his and wills "that it should become a universal law". A revulsion at television pictures of cruelty must be harnessed to a diplomatic, economic or even military crusade.

Of course I accept "moral responsibility for my response" to what I see on television. But then what? There is a difference between wishing the world a better place, willing voluntary action to alleviate human suffering (such as through charities) and expecting my Government in effect to go to war. Mr Cook draws no distinction. Governments set on the latter course become fidgety, inconsistent and counter-productive. The moral imperative gets the better of the utilitarian goal. Kant makes better television than Bentham. When foreign ministers turn to philosophy, decent citizens should run for cover.

Mr Cook's exclusions now become more stark. We hear nothing of peaceful co-existence, of territorial integrity, of national self-determination, let alone of the United Nations charter on non-interference in the affairs of sovereign states. America has declared that national sovereignty is now subordinate to CNN diplomacy, to America's moral imperialism. America has a league table of drugs nations. Mr Cook promises one on human rights.

Yesterday morning on the radio was a vivid illustration of the double standard into which this morality leads. A firm was attacked for importing footballs made by child labour in India. A reporter in India found a child stitcher and asked if she would not rather be playing with her friends. She said yes. But she added that if she did not stitch (and someone sell and someone buy her football), her sick mother would starve.

Mr Cook claimed yesterday that he would "clamp down on child labour", and would be applauded by the media for doing so. Such is the power of the moral response. But India is not Britain. It is poor. The best thing Britain can do for India is to buy any or all of its exports. The worst thing is to close its factories, sack its children, starve its villages and ruin its competitiveness — all to satisfy that moral response.

Labour has always advocated sanctions as a weapon of international relations, despite all evidence of its ineffectiveness. From Castro and Gaddafi to the ayatollahs and Saddam Hussein, nothing cements a dictator in place as does economic warfare. The casual threatening of sanctions is a war on the distant poor, a sign of the "dumbing" of foreign affairs, of CNN diplomacy.

The inspiration for Mr Cook's philosophy is not so much Kant as what Nietzsche dismissed as "Fernstenliebe", a greater concern for distant humans than for those close to home. There is a glory to foreign wars that is absent from the Department of Social Security. Over the past decade, American presidents have turned with relief from their appalling cities to crusade in Beirut, Grenada, Somalia, Haiti and Bosnia. So Britain is now promised adventures in any disaster area that captures Mr Cook's video recorder.

Terrible will be the messes and terrible the inconsistencies. The mission to "strengthen the Commonwealth" will fall before a "moral imperative" to restore Kenya's democracy, establish human rights in Nigeria or rewrite India's labour laws. British trade will fall before human rights in Tibet. As for drug-trafficking, what does Mr Cook really mean to do about the world's second biggest export after oil? He can outlaw hypocrisy and save £2 billion from the Foreign Office budget. He can break the glass, but he will not hold up the weather.

To be fair to Mr Cook, finding a new role in the world is not done in a week. America is now the global police chief and a wayward one at that. Europe will be Mr Cook's stage, showered with brickbats, and the rest will be sideshows. But the sideshows will be plagued with interventions. No country is at present safe from the restlessness of post-Cold War governments, their armies, their agencies and their charity bosses. At this moment, hordes of Rwandans are wandering central Africa, enticed from their homes in part by promises of Western aid and security, tossed from gangster to charity and back to gangster, dying all the time. For the West the Goma camp was a great moral response, but for its inhabitants it was a catastrophe.

Modern interventionism is short-term and paper-thin. It is upheld by none of the commitment of empire or of old Cold War alliances. Such imperialism risks being mere television diplomacy. The challenge for Mr Cook is to prove that his new moral outreach can ever deliver a practical goal. Otherwise it is just showing off and feeling good.

Alan Coren

How much is that doggy in your pocket?

As a lone columnist, I have, like Blanche Dubois, always depended on the kindness of strangers. I perch in this Cricklewood eyrie, banging on to a world I cannot see, whose population I do not know, hoping against hope that they do not object to being banged on to, and thus pitiably grateful for the slightest indication that that hope is not, in both senses, vain. And should the indication ever be more than the slightest, a hot flush suffuses my raddled cheek, my little heart goes pit-a-pat, and upon each eyelid a bright tear trembles. So you see what you have done, Mrs Alice Maynard, with your Tamagotchi.

Or, rather, my Tamagotchi, which is what it is now that Mrs Maynard has so very generously sent it to me. She did this because, a fortnight ago, I wrote that I had always wanted a dog but none of the headaches that went with it, and suggested that BT, which had just released its dawn chorus service for bird-lovers, now set up a dogline so that people like me could have a dog to talk to. But Mrs Maynard had already gone much farther than that: she had gone, a month before, as far as Tokyo, and when she returned she brought with her a big bag of Tamagotchis for friends and relatives; and one, this extraordinarily compassionate lady decided after reading my column, for me.

It is a dog I can carry in my pocket. It is the size of a quail's egg. Indeed, it could be a quail I could carry in my pocket, if I had always wanted a quail but none of the headaches that went with it, or a cat, or a gerbil. It could be My Extremely Little Pony. For the Tamagotchi is a cybernetic pet, a tiny electronic sphere which the owner has to nurture if it is to thrive and love him back: it wails if it is virtually hungry or virtually unhappy, stopping only when the owner presses the little buttons which feed or comfort it; it grows virtually fat if it is overfed, it gets virtually messy if its pleas to evacuate its virtual bowels go unheeded, and if not kept a close, caring eye on, it can have up to eight different virtual accidents, any of which could kill it.

Oh, Mrs Maynard, dear kind Mrs Maynard, what have you done? My dog is sitting on my desk as I write; it has been fed, it has had a pee, and it now seems to be contentedly sleeping, but you can never be sure, any moment now it could suddenly wake up and run under a bus, it could jump out of the window, it could get eaten by a python, my life will never be the same. If it were a real dog, I could put it in the garden and get on with my work, but if you put a Tamagotchi in the garden and went back into the loft, it could squeal, vomit and tread on a landmine and you would never know.

And there are more distressing ramifications yet, are there not, Mrs Maynard? I never knew much about the Japanese, I knew they had a taste for raw fish, short poems, and labour-intensive roadbuilding, and that was about it, but now you tell me that they have ten million Tamagotchis, and love them, and depend upon them for their happiness.

How long, then, before Nippon comes up with cybernetic children, so much less risk and hassle, so much more certainty of filial devotion and reward, and how long before such electronic virtuality spreads, as so many Japanese initiatives do, westwards?

Worse — though you were not to know it — your generous gift arrived on a very unsettling day indeed, when two other quantum long jumps took off from the board to land who knows where: not only did BSkyB and BT go into partnership to initiate interactive television shopping so that none of us need ever leave his domestic premises again, but the Deep Blue computer trounced Garry Kasparov, the smartest human being in the world.

So even as I send thanks to you, Mrs Maynard, I have to say that it is thanks to you that I have seen the future, and, God help us, it virtually works. Any day now, man will be able to sit in his solitary cubicle with his dogs in one pocket and his kids in the other, feeding, clothing and entertaining himself from the screen before him, and playing everything from cribbage to rugby league against the best the cybernetic world has to offer.

What shall we call this ideal? Would virtual hara-kiri do?

Log jam

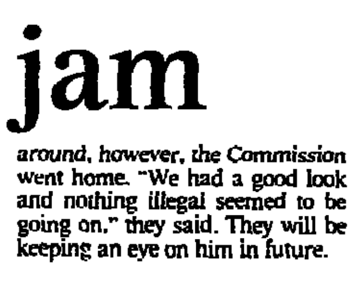
DISTRACTED perhaps by the launch of his new album, Sir Paul McCartney, a noted nature lover, has found himself under investigation by the Forestry Commission. The problem arose after McCartney made some ill-guarded remarks in an interview for the latest issue of the pop music magazine Q, in which he painted himself as a real Grizzly Adams.

When asked how he relaxed, McCartney said he liked to get out and about on his estate near Peasmarsh in East Sussex. "My hobby," he says, "and I did it yesterday actually, is getting out in the woods and making trails for riders, so I'm chainsaw man — no tree is safe. I apologise to them, though, and I point out to them, there's an awful lot of you, it's virtually a thicket!"

Instantly, feelers twitched at the Forestry Commission and investigators were dispatched. Felling timber without a licence carries a fine of up to £4,000 or twice the value of the trees, whichever is highest. Small beer to someone such as McCartney, but embarrassing for one so publicly tied to environmental causes.

After a few days of nosing around, however, the Commission went home. "We had a good look and nothing illegal seemed to be going on," they said. They will be keeping an eye on him in future.

● *The chaos surrounding Michael Howard's run for the Tory leadership suddenly makes sense when one considers his personal minder,*



"There IS something of the night about Howard. He eats After Eight chocolates"

THE TIMES DIARY

one Douglas Carswell, a young man in his mid twenties for whom the years since 1960 might not have happened. Low of brow, grey of suit and wearing the sort of heavy plastic spectacles beloved of Denis Norden, his most recent job was minding the Tories' general election chicken.

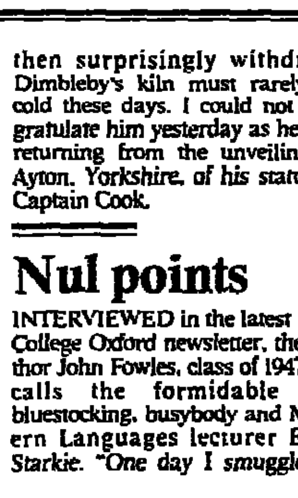
High note

ANOTHER notch in the Dimbleby family belt, this time courtesy of Nicholas Dimbleby, younger brother of David and Jonathan. He has won a contest to design a statue of the jazz musician Duke Ellington which will stand in London's Soho Square.

He beat four other sculptors to the £30,000 contract, although the best-known among them, Sir Eduardo Paolozzi, entered late then surprisingly withdrew. Dimbleby's kiln must rarely go cold these days. I could not congratulate him yesterday as he was returning from the unveiling in Ayton, Yorkshire, of his statue of Captain Cook.

Nul points

INTERVIEWED in the latest New College Oxford newsletter, the author John Fowles, class of 1947, recalls the formidable old bluestocking, busybody and Modern Languages lecturer Enid Starkie. "One day I smuggled a French friend in to one of her lectures, and she began quoting Rimbaud or Verlaine. He was at the Sorbonne himself. He listened for a while and then he said, 'What language is she speaking?'."



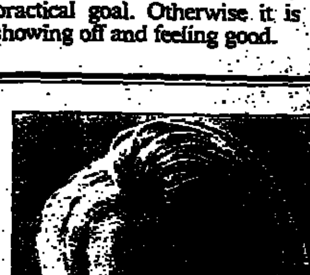
Dimbleby: good curves

● *Dance music and Shakespeare have been fused on a new disco version of Hamlet's "To be or not to be" speech. On the record, which will reach clubs very soon, the actor Richard E. Grant recites the soliloquy over a drum and bass track by the techno band Orpheus. "They assure me it's going to be in the top five," says Grant.*

Free spirit

WITH her father now in Parliament, Melissa Bell, daughter of Martin Bell, now Independent MP for Tatton, has decided to become the journalist in the family. Before returning to Britain to run and otherwise glamorise her father's successful election campaign, she worked in the marketing department of Reuters in Brussels.

Now back in Brussels, where her fluent French comes in handy, she has moved into journalism with a job at Bridge News, a financial wire service, part of the Knight-Ridder group. "My father wouldn't have me continuing to work for him," says Miss Bell.



Melissa Bell: ringing changes

● *These are desperate times for Kasparov Chess Computers. Just hours after their sponsor's defeat by Deep Blue, the company was issuing frantic press releases promoting its product, the "bestselling range of 'intelligent' games in the world".*

The chess computers, we read, provide a "formidable, faceless opponent . . . a clever combination of computer cool and human intelligence". Thus proving once again the truth of the old adage: if you can't beat 'em . . .

P·H·S

THE LADY SPEAKS

The new Bank advisers must bring a broad range of views

Gordon Brown's decision to make the Bank of England independent was widely welcomed. Yesterday's publication of the Bank's quarterly Inflation Report should remind enthusiasts that central bank independence, however desirable, is not a free lunch. The Bank intends to raise interest rates and to raise them quickly. It will not be deterred by what it sees as the short-term aberration of the overvalued pound which is punishing manufacturers and exporters. Neither will the Bank be put off by whatever Mr Brown may or may not do in his Budget next month. Subject to the tradition of verbal obscurity which is second nature to central bankers, the Inflation Report yesterday could not have been more explicit. "*Inflation* is more likely than not to be above the target two years or so ahead unless action is taken to slow the pace of expansion. There is likely to be a need for some further moderate tightening of policy in the months ahead."

How far the Bank decides to move may depend to some extent on what Mr Brown does in the Budget and what happens on the foreign exchanges. But the connection will be tenuous, at best. The Bank seems intent on disappointing the CBI and other business lobbyists which have been calling for higher taxes as a substitute for higher interest rates and a stronger pound. No such choice is now on offer. Judging by the Inflation Report interest rates will rise almost regardless of what Mr Brown does in the Budget.

This is a perfectly defensible position from the point of view of the newly independent Bank. The Bank can be more confident of meeting its new statutory duty to contain inflation if it sticks doggedly to a long-term policy of monetary rigour, refusing to be deflected by erratic currency movements or changes in tax policy whose impact on inflation may be hard to predict. To mitigate a policy of higher interest rates in the hope that inflation might be contained by a tough Budget or a strong pound would inevitably mean taking a risk with inflation, at least in the short term. Taking risks with inflation is what the Bank has been instructed not to do.

Eliminating risk, however, always carries costs. An independent Bank will be less sensitive than an elected Government to the competitive pressures on British industry. And the independent conduct of monetary policy will sharply constrain the Chancellor's ability to stabilise economic activity by coordinating moves in taxes, public spending and interest rates. Whether the greater certainty of achieving low inflation justifies this loss of competitiveness and flexibility is a political decision, which Mr Brown has now taken. But even within the framework of independence, there are options available to ensure that the Bank's decisions remain open to political scrutiny and sensitive to public opinion.

The Government must ensure that appointees to the Bank's new Monetary Policy Committee represent a range of economic and political backgrounds. The committee must include economists from the Keynesian school who believe in using interest rates and fiscal policy for active demand management, as well as traditional financial economists with City backgrounds. They should include people drawn from manufacturing industry, not just from academia or financial markets.

Committee members, up to the Governor and his deputies, should also represent a variety of political persuasions. Central bankers in Germany, America and France have publicly acknowledged political affiliations. Even though they must keep partisan politics out of professional judgments, experience of politics makes them more sensitive to public opinion and helps to enrich their debate. The US Federal Reserve Board is a highly political institution, whose chairman and governors maintain close contacts with the White House and Congress, as well as with business and financial lobbies. They take pride in their sensitivity to the political impact of their decisions. Central bank independence may be designed to take the politics out of interest rates. But nobody should imagine that interest rates can ever be taken out of politics.

CHUNNEL FUDGE

Eurotunnel must seize this opportunity for a fresh start

The report by the Channel Tunnel Safety Authority on last November's freight shuttle fire is a devastating indictment of sloppy practices by Eurotunnel. It describes a "fundamental weakness" in their safety system, lists numerous procedures that were not properly implemented and blames Eurotunnel for not training staff properly, leading to errors and delays in dealing with the blaze. The report is a very different document from the internal inquiry carried out by Eurotunnel immediately after the fire. This concluded that, on the whole, all the safety procedures had functioned adequately and had averted loss of life. Yesterday's report agreed only on the almost fortuitous escape of the drivers trapped in the tunnel; in all other respects it should puncture the complacency of the Eurotunnel inquiry.

The report makes 36 recommendations. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister with overall responsibility for transport, swiftly associated the Government with both the criticisms and the proposals, and said he expected the new safety measures to be implemented forthwith. He insisted, correctly, that safety must be paramount.

It is, therefore, all the more surprising that the Channel Tunnel Safety Authority has itself drawn up a report so deficient in two crucial areas. No attempt was made to identify the cause of the fire; nor, on the question of the open-sided wagons — at the centre of arguments over the spread of the blaze — did it reach any conclusion. As a report, therefore, it is of little use in determining the pattern of future freight shuttles through the tunnel.

A French judicial inquiry is to publish its report on the cause of the fire within a week. Since flames were seen coming from the train as it entered the tunnel, there is suspicion of arson. This, clearly, would have a bearing on the running and management of the tunnel. Why, therefore, did the safety authority not co-ordinate its report with the French inquiry? After any air or rail crash, determining the cause of the accident is an essential first step.

Furthermore, the inquiry's failure to decide, after lengthy evidence, whether the open-sided wagons were a contributory factor is irresponsible. The Kent Fire Brigade has long condemned these transporters as unsafe; the design authorities, on the other hand, insisted that the risk of lorries catching fire was so much smaller than a fire breaking out in a car that the lattice-sided carriers were safe. Who is right? The suspicion is that commercial considerations have intervened; with the advent of 44-tonne lorries, steel-doored wagons would put too great a weight on the bogies and increase the risk of derailment. On this point, the report should have been unambiguous.

Eurotunnel has committed itself to new safety measures. Within a month both tunnels will be open to all traffic. The priority now for Government and operators is to maximise the tunnel's benefits. This means opening new routes for freight up the spine of Britain, encouraging the new privatised rail freight operations to expand their international routes and access and dealing, at European Union level, with the remaining obstacles that make national freight systems incompatible. Mr Prescott has the political weight to give transport a real boost; the tunnel operators should now seize their new opportunity.

THE SELECT FEW

New ways to improve scrutiny of government

As Labour MPs scramble to find a seat today for the first debate of the new Parliament, many will be wondering what on earth they will do with their time. Just 91 have been chosen for government posts; that leaves a further 326 pairs of potentially idle hands.

One answer would be to have more than one career path in national politics. It need not be the pinnacle of an MP's career to become the Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Department of Doorknobs, let alone the unpaid parliamentary private secretary to the above. The Commons itself ought to provide rewarding routes to success.

The best select committees already command respect: their reports are debated and quoted, their chairmen appear on the *Today* programme. But too often, membership of a committee is seen as a consolation prize for ex-ministers put out to grass. If the work is taken seriously, it is detailed and time-consuming: yet no reward is offered. The chairmen of select committees ought to be paid a salary on top of their MP's wage.

This was recommended last year by the Senior Salaries Review Body. It would give higher status to a job whose importance often goes unrecognised. In the dying years of the last administration, no fewer than four select committee chairmen gave up their post to the lure of junior or middle-ranking ministerial positions. If these men had been paid commensurately to stay in the Commons, would they have been so tempted to cross to Whitehall?

A good stint on a select committee should also be recommended to the bright young MPs in Labour's new intake. As Frank Field (who chaired the social security select committee) has proved, such work is invaluable in building up expertise. The new ranks of MPs include several, such as Patricia Hewitt for Labour and Steve Webb for the Liberal Democrats, who are already knowledgeable about welfare reform. Yvette Cooper and Charles Clarke have much to offer the Treasury and Public Services Committees. The new MPs' presence would do more than fill in time before they qualify for frontbench status, and should be seen by Mr Blair not as holding up their ministerial careers but as a substitute for spending a year or two as a PPS.

If select committees are packed with talented members, more attention will be paid to their reports and their scrutiny of the executive will be more rigorous. With Labour sitting on a majority of 179, the quality of this examination will be critical. So will the opportunity for a more diverse range of views to be aired. The committee system could bring some fresh ideas into the policy formation of a new Government. It deserves to be made more attractive.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Pressure from Tories to reform leadership election rules

From Mr Edward Leigh, MP for Gainsborough (Conservative)

Sir, I write as a Conservative MP so far uncommitted in the leadership election.

How can a party rebuild itself as the voice of the United Kingdom when the franchise of the leader is denied to three quarters of the constituencies of the United Kingdom?

Is there a candidate for the 1922 Committee and leadership elections prepared to commit himself to testing the result for leader and deputy leader in a full, one-man one-vote election next year conducted by secret postal ballot? Electoral colleges are burdensome and undemocratic and, as the Labour Party found, do not work or inspire.

A leadership election involving every party member could provide the springboard for a nationwide recruitment drive, maintain interest in the Conservatives throughout a lengthy Labour honeymoon period and test the mettle of the new leader against all comers and all talents.

Is there a candidate prepared to modernise our party? Can we create a democratic party conference electing the party chairman, debating real issues among representatives elected by all party members and themselves deciding all the motions to be debated by ballot? Have we the courage to countenance a Shadow Cabinet elected every year by the parliamentary party, attending the parliamentary caucus every week?

The 1922 Committee should become the forum for a united and seamless party, discussing new policy initiatives and effective opposition together, before we present a united front to the outside world. Never again must we have this "them and us" divide between the front bench and the backbenchers, either in opposition or government.

We need to countenance a massive reform of the whole welfare state. Conservatives succeed where they give ordinary people opportunities, as with council house sales. Are we prepared to give people real property rights over contributions they have made towards health and social security? Can we not give all schools complete freedom and parents the funding to send their child where they like?

Have we the honesty to accept that our European partners intend to create a united Europe and we must give the people the choice in a full referendum between that and membership of a free-trade area? Are we just going to pay lip-service to self-help, Christian and family values, or do something about it?

These issues need to be addressed now in our elections for leader and the 1922 Committee. Is somebody prepared to come forward and do so?

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD LEIGH,
House of Commons.
May 12.

From the Director of the Conservative Political Centre

Sir, Nowhere will your leading article today, "Trust the people", be applauded more vigorously than in the Conservative Political Centre.

Much of the CPC's most important work is done in several hundred discussion groups in constituencies in all four parts of the United Kingdom. Their chief purpose is to contribute to a "two-way movement of ideas", as Rab Butler, who established the CPC after the Second World War, put it.

I am now coming to the end of a nine-year stint as director of the CPC. I have visited a large number of its discussion groups. Everywhere I have been told that the ideas contributed from below fail to secure sufficient movement in return from above.

In opposition the Conservative Party has frequently begun the task of preparing a new programme by setting up a number of policy groups to work in detail on the main areas of policy. Sir Edward Heath organised a particularly ambitious venture of this kind in 1964, which was co-ordinated by the Conservative Research Department (Rab Butler's other chief gift to the party). New policy groups should be swiftly established: and this time the CPC should be fully involved in their work.

Incidentally, the party remains the Conservative and Unionist Party. Its defence of the Union must remain a central element of its One Nation policies for the future, even though it will need to find new ways of incorporating support for devolution within them.

Yours faithfully,
ALISTAIR B. COOKE, Director,
Conservative Political Centre,
32 Smith Square, Westminster, SW1.
May 10.

From Mr Fred Silvester

Sir, As a former member of the executive of the Conservative 1922 Committee, I am aware of the arguments for leaving the main influence in the choice of leader of the Conservative Party with MPs who observe the candidates most closely.

I do hope, however, that the executive soon to be elected will consider the very widespread view (letters, May 9) that party workers should now have a formal role in making the choice. The current process of consultation is inadequate. Not only is the parliamentary party no longer representative of the spread of the party at large, but nearly a quarter of MPs are new and cannot claim that special knowledge of the candidates on which the present system depends. The National Union has a strong claim to be heard.

There is no hurry to choose a leader. The party's troubles are not susceptible to the quick fix. If introducing a new system delayed the election beyond the present expectation of early June, no harm will be done. MPs should remember that they are going to need the enthusiasm of the constituency workers now more than ever.

Yours faithfully,
F. J. SILVESTER
(Conservative MP, 1964-70, 1974-87),
27 King Edward Walk, SE1.
May 9.

From Mr David Winnick, MP for Walsall North (Labour)

Sir, Legislation was introduced by the Tories in the early 1980s whereby elections for national positions in trade unions had to be based on the wider membership and no longer by those attending branch meetings.

Yet it is now considered appropriate for 164 MPs alone to decide who should be the Leader of the Opposition. Why not the same right for members of the Conservative Party as for trade unionists?

Yours etc,
DAVID WINNICK,
House of Commons.
May 12.

From Mrs Elizabeth Sutherland

Sir, So the Conservative Associations want a say in the selection of the next Tory leader. Having been responsible for the selection of hundreds of Tory candidates overwhelmingly rejected by the public at large their judgment must be questioned.

Now their favoured choice appears to be William Hague — another John Major and another pragmatist. His achievements appear few and as a "professional" politician from a very early age his real knowledge of the world must be limited. Moreover William Hague's Eurosceptic credentials are extremely suspect to many of us who have withdrawn our support from the party.

Of the candidates on offer only the leadership of John Redwood, a man of enormous intellect and principle, untarnished by the last few years of rather squalid Tory Government, would see our family return to the Conservative fold.

Yours sincerely,
ELIZABETH SUTHERLAND,
23 Sparrowswick Ride,
St Albans, Hertfordshire.
May 10.

Relaxing the rules

From Mr Ednyfed Hudson Davies

Sir, Tony Blair's decision to conduct Cabinet meetings on a first-name basis has led to some ill-founded adverse reaction. There is no reason why a change of style in Cabinet should leak out to corrupt the parliamentary system. In fact some very specific advantages could result.

The archaic practice of close colleagues referring to each other in Cabinet by their ministerial titles, rather than maintaining harmony as your leader today suggests, in my view deepened departmental divisions. The inter-departmental approach to issues, which the new Government advocates, will much more readily succeed without constant reminders of departmental tags.

Being referred to by title has tended subtly to diminish ministers' comments on any topic outside their departmental responsibility. Ron Davies, the new Secretary of State for Wales, who succeeded me as Member of Parliament for Caerphilly, has shrewd views on many political issues. Being invited by the Prime Minister to comment on a matter of, say, defence or fiscal policy with the question, "Do you have anything to say on this, Secretary of State for Wales?", instantly undermines the relevance of his response.

The new style should strengthen the sense of co-operation in Cabinet, and give new life and meaning to the doctrine of collective responsibility.

Yours faithfully,
EDNYFED HUDSON DAVIES
(Labour MP for Conwy, 1966-70;
Caerphilly, 1979-83),
Sowley Farmhouse,
Sowley, Lymington, Hampshire.
May 13.

Cherie Blair picture

From Mrs Sandra Berry

Sir, While it is reassuring to know that in future Cherie Blair will be entitled to take out an injunction against those who publish photographs of her in a nightgown (letter, May 12), surely we should not lose sight of a citizen's responsibility for her own actions?

Mrs Blair did not need to answer the door in her nightgown — or indeed to answer it at all if it was not convenient. I would prefer to think that this is just another example of the excellent New Informality, following "Call me Tony" and "working clothes" for Gordon Brown at the Mansion House.

Yours,
SANDRA BERRY,
11 Fairacre,
Acacia Grove, New Malden, Surrey.
May 12.

Queen's Speech and human rights

From the Director of Liberty

Sir, One important proposal expected in tomorrow's Queen's Speech is the Government's intention to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into domestic law. Liberty has campaigned for such legislation over twenty years.

Once incorporation is complete our fundamental civil and political rights will no longer exist merely in the silence of the law but will have a key place in a new constitution. For the first time we will have positive rights to privacy and fair trial, freedoms of expression, religion and assembly. The convention itself is not of course a panacea and, being nearly forty years old, needs to be supplemented by new rights in a domestic Bill of Rights.

In the shorter term, legislation to incorporate the convention needs to create real rights with real remedies, so that violations can be met by civil actions. It must deal with violations of human rights at least as effectively as breaches of property rights. The same remedies, such as injunctions and damages, should be available.

The Bill also needs to impose duties on Parliament, ministers and the Civil Service to protect these rights. In particular they need to ensure that, in future, all legislation complies with the convention. Finally, the real test of the commitment of the new Parliament will be whether it is prepared to allow the courts to give a higher status to the convention than other legislation. The Canadians have managed to develop devices that preserve the sovereignty of their Parliament whilst also giving human rights the importance they deserve within the constitution. I hope the new Parliament can be as creative.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WADHAM,
Director, Liberty,
21 Tabard Street, SE1.
May 13.

'New' names

From Mr David Rees

Sir, The new edition of *The Oxford Concise Dictionary of First Names* may have chosen to record "classic" surnames such as Lambert as first names for the first time (report, May 9; letter, May 10). However, the book's previous editors have been ignoring their history if that name has been omitted until now.

The pretender Lambert Simnel won notoriety by posing as Richard Duke of York during Henry VII's reign. It would be interesting to know whether another "classic" name, Perkin, makes it into the book as well.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID REES,
38 New Caledonian Wharf,
6 Odessa Street, SE16.
May 12.

Deep Blue

From Mr Alan Fraser

Sir, Far from representing a triumph for the computer and artificial intelligence, the recent contest between Deep Blue and Garry Kasparov (report, May 12) shows the poverty of intellectual capacity of a machine which needs to process 200 million possible chess moves a second in order to win a match against a man who can think about only three or four.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN FRASER,
33 Elm Bank Gardens, SW13.
May 12.

Sport and tobacco

From the Executive Director, Industry Affairs, of the Tobacco Manufacturers' Association

Sir, Sir Donald Acheson's assertion (letter, May 10) that "by far the greater part" of the tobacco industry's promotional spend is on "sponsorship of activities such as sport" is seriously misleading.

Sports sponsorship accounts for 16 per cent of the tobacco industry's annual expenditure on advertising and, significantly, is capped at the 1985 level, allowing for year-on-year inflation. Moreover, any new sponsorship has to be cleared with government.

Exactly as for a ban on advertising, a sponsorship ban would do absolutely nothing to cut overall consumption. But it would unquestionably deprive sporting organisations of often desperately needed financial support which some 60 different sports have happily and proudly enjoyed through over 30 years of tobacco association.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE TURNER,
Executive Director,
Industry Affairs,
Tobacco Manufacturers' Association,
55 Tufton Street,
Westminster, SW1.
May 10.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They *may be sent to a fax number —* 0171-782 5046.

Call to open ranks of British Legion

From Mr N. B. C. Evelegh

Sir, As a proud member of the Royal British Legion, which has just celebrated its 75th anniversary, I believe it is time that, in addition to its traditional and vital service to retired service personnel, the RBL should also support those engaged in some of the internal conflicts within our society — conflicts which I regard as just as threatening as those on the battlefield.

Until recently the Armed Services were found in every corner of the country, but now no longer. Here in Kent, for instance, the naval barracks and dockyard in Chatham have closed, one of the county regiments has left Maidstone, and the Royal Marines have left Deal. The Royal Air Force, already departed from Biggin Hill and West Malling, is only a shadow at Manston.

The pattern of decline within the Royal British Legion is reflected in its recent annual report, with a further loss of membership and the closing of another 37 branches. In the light of such changes, could not the RBL now welcome into its ranks those who serve in the community front line — the unpaid and often unsung volunteers in the Scouts and Guides and in the cadet forces, the police and the fire service?

Unless the RBL recognises the new order of battle in our society now, when its fine reputation and resources could make it a real force for good, I believe that by the time it reaches its centenary in 2021 it will be effectively extinct.

Yours faithfully,
NICK EVELEGH,
Hodges Farmhouse,
Frittenden, Cranbrook, Kent.
May 12.

Quality of TV

From Dr Geoffrey Rivett

Sir, My wife and I are numbered amongst those to whom David Lowe refers (letter, May 9) as channel hopping in search of something worth watching.

We regularly spend time in the US, and while friends tell us that the general quality of the programming there is dire, we would gladly exchange any British terrestrial or satellite channel for the Public Broadcasting Service, available throughout the US. A service largely reliant on public donations, we wish it was available in the UK. Cable suppliers please note.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY RIVETT,
173 Shakespeare Tower,
Barbican, EC2.
May 12.

Northcote recalled

From the Earl of Iddesleigh

Sir, You underestimate my great-grandfather, Sir Stafford Northcote, when you refer to him as "prolific" (Diary, May 6). He had fathered ten, not eight, children when as Chancellor of the Exchequer he lived in No 10 Downing Street, having exchanged houses with his Prime Minister, Benjamin Disraeli, in 1874.

His association with No 10 does not end there. One of his granddaughters (not daughter), Dame Flora MacLeod, was actually born in the house on February 3, 1878, and he himself died there on January 6, 1887, while waiting to see the Prime Minister of the day, Lord Salisbury. A unique treble, I think?

Yours faithfully,
IDDESLEIGH,
Shillands House,
Upton-Pyne-Hill, nr Exeter, Devon.

Afore ye go

From Mr Allan Hird

Sir, I have just received from Thomas Cook tickets for my wife and me to fly to Edinburgh in a few weeks' time. They contain an instruction to "ensure that your passport is current and valid including any visas and vaccinations where required".

In the current fast-moving political scene since Labour took office, does the travel group perhaps know something that the rest of us don't?

Yours faithfully,
ALLAN HIRD,
26 Elton Avenue,
Greenford, Middlesex.
May 8.

All at sea

From Dr G. L. Bolt

Sir, I shared Mr David Wray's surprise at your navigational confusion concerning Whitby and Scarborough (letter, May 10).

Nevertheless his surmise that Captain Cook would be revolving in his grave is unlikely. Whitby's most famous son was murdered, dismembered and partially burnt by the inhabitants of what is now Hawaii. Only a few fragments of his body were returned to *HMS Resolution* and they were buried at sea.

Both sides were extremely saddened as previously relationships had been warm and friendly.

Yours faithfully,
G. L. BOLT,
11 Nelson Street,
King's Lynn, Norfolk.
May 12.

هكذا من الاصل

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
May 13: The Queen, Patron, and *The Duke of Edinburgh this* morning attended a Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication to celebrate the amalgamation of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's *Families Association with the* Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts Workshops.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were received at Westminster Abbey by *the Dean of* Westminster (the Very Reverend Dr Wesley Carr) and inside the Great West Door by Prince Michael of Kent (President of the *Council, Soldiers', Sailors' and* Airmen's Association Forces Help) and the Chairman (Vice-Admiral Sir Barry Wilson).

The Duke of Gloucester was received by The Queen this afternoon when Her Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Knight *Companion of the Most Noble* Order of the Garter.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Founder and Chairman of the International Trustees, this afternoon gave a *Luncheon for The Duke of Edinburgh's* Award International Association at Buckingham Palace.

His Royal Highness, Colonel-in-Chief, Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, this evening attended a Reception at St *James's Palace.*

The Lady Elton has succeeded the Lady Susan Hussey as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
May 13: The Duke of York this morning opened the United Kingdom/United States Partners in Technology Conference at the Santa Clara Convention Centre, *California.*

His Royal Highness this afternoon attended a Luncheon given by the Mayor of San José at the Capital Club.

The Duke of York afterwards visited the LSI Logic Corporation Headquarters, Milpitas.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a Reception given by United Kingdom/United States Partners in Technology at the Westin Hotel, Santa Clara.

The Duke of York later attended a soccer match between San José Clash and Aston Villa at the Spartan Stadium, San José.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
May 13: The Princess Royal, President, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, this morning attended Volunteers Day at the *Stakis Edinburgh Hotel, Grosve*nor Street, Edinburgh, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh (Mr Eric Milligan, the Rt Hon the Lord Provost).

Her Royal Highness this afternoon opened the Pringle Chinese Collection at the Royal Botanic Garden, Inverleith Hill, *Edinburgh.*

The Princess Royal, Patron, later chaired the third meeting of the Advisory Council of the Scottish Institute of Sports Medicine and Sports Science at the Scottish Sports Council, Caledonia House, South Gyle, Edinburgh.

CLARENCE HOUSE
May 13: The Hon Mrs Rhodes has succeeded the Lady Margaret Colville as Lady in Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
May 13: The Prince of Wales today visited farms and businesses in Hesse involved in the production and sale of organic food.

His Royal Highness arrived at Royal Air Force Lyneham from Germany this evening.

Mr Nicholas Archer was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
May 13: The Duke of Gloucester, President, St Bartholomew's Hospital, today opened the Museum at the Hospital, London EC1.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
May 13: Princess Alexandra, Patron of the United Kingdom Falkland Islands Trust, this afternoon received Major-General N.St.G. *Gribbon upon retiring as Chair*man, Captain P.M.C. Vincent, Royal Navy, upon assuming the appointment and Sir Rex Hunt, Chairman of the Shackleton *Scholarship Fund.*

Her Royal Highness, Patron of the London Philharmonic Choir for the Fiftieth Anniversary Year, this evening attended the Anniversary Gala Concert in the Royal Albert Hall, London SW7.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will open Parliament at 11.30. Princess Margaret and the Duke of Gloucester will also attend.

The Prince of Wales, as President, *The Prince's Trust, will visit the* Trust's "Superstart" programme at Superchoice Enterprise and Education Centre, Osminton Bay, Weymouth, at 10.45; and will open *the video conference and tech*nological facilities of the Poundbury Enterprise Centre, Poundbury, Dorchester at 1.10.

The Princess Royal, as Patron, British Nutrition Foundation, will attend the Conference "Nutrition *in Infancy" at the Royal Society of* Medicine at 9.55; and as Patron, College of Occupational Therapists, will attend the Conference/Study Day on "Positive *Images, Positive Steps*" and "The Role of Occupational Therapy in the Mental Health Field is developing more than ever", at 6-8 Marshalsea Road, Southwark, London SE1 at 12.30. Later, she will attend a King George's Fund for Sailors' fundraising dinner at Drapers' Hall at 7.30.

Princess Alexandra will visit the International Social Service of the *United Kingdom International* spring fair at Kensington Town Hall at 10.30.

Lord Rippon of Hexham, QC

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of Lord Rippon of Hexham, QC, will take place in St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, at noon on Wednesday, June 4, 1997. All are welcome, and those wishing to attend are requested to apply for tickets, for this service only, to: The Rector's Secretary, Room 4, 1 Little Cloister, Westminster Abbey, SW1P 3PL, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope. Tickets will be posted from May 26.

TONY WHITE

The Dean's Verger leads the Queen and the Dean of Westminster at Westminster Abbey yesterday where Her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh attended a service to mark the amalgamation of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association with the Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts Workshops

Memorial service

Mr Ted O'Brien
A memorial service for Mr Ted O'Brien, trade unionist, was held yesterday at St Bride's, Fleet Street. *Canon John Oates officiated.* Mr Paul Frizzell read the lesson. Ms Anne O'Brien, daughter, read *On Eagle's Wing.* Mr Daniel O'Brien, son, read *Long Walk to Freedom* by Mr Nelson Mandela and Mr John Mitchell read a quote from *The Pressmen Apprenticeship, 1798. Mr Sean Geraghty gave an* address.

Birthdays today

Miss Francesca Annis, actress, 52; Mr Richard Balfe, MEP, 53; Dr Hastings Banda, former President of Malawi, 92; Mr Chay Blyth, *yachtsman, 57;* Professor R.D.H. Boyd, Principal, St George's Hospital Medical School, 59; Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Buchanan, 72; Mr Denis Cannan, dramatist, 78; Sir David Cooksey, former chairman, Audit Commission, 57; Mr Phil Drabble, broadcaster, 83; Sir *Owen Green, former chairman,* BTR, 72; Baroness Hogg, 51; Mr R.D.C. Hubbard, former chairman, Powell Duffryn, 61; Mr G.R. Lister, former chief executive, Bradford and Bingley Building Society, 60; Mr George Lucas, film director and producer, 53; Lord McAlpine of West Green, 55; Mr Martin Mogg, former Governor, *Durham prison,* 56; Mr Edward Newman, MEP, 44; Canon John Oates, rector, St Bride's, Fleet Street, 67; Miss Siân Phillips, actress, 63; Sir Peregrine Rhodes, diplomat, 72; Sir Adam Ridley, executive director, Hambros Bank, 55; Sir Leslie Sharp, former Chief Constable, *Strathclyde,* 61; Mr Anthony Stoller, chief executive, Radio Authority, 50; Mrs Patricia Turner, trade unionist, 70; Judge Adrianne Uziell-Hamilton, 65.

Service dinner

Royal Signals
Major-General A.C. Birtwistle, Master of Signals, attended the annual dinner of the Royal Corps *of Signals held last night at the* Café Royal. Major-General P.R. Davies presided.

British couple save city's lost children

IN THE slush and mud of a cold north Moscow suburb, hope for children is in short supply, *James Pettifer writes.* In the vast apartment blocks of Medvedkovo, the vodka bottle often rules. It is the end of the Metro line, literally, and a place where the alcoholics *come to drink. Here six-year*-old Ruslan Gurian was rescued from undernourishment, the aftermath of foetal alcoholic syndrome and a drunken mother.

A British charity, the *Waverley Trust, has helped* him and is rescuing 60 or so other desperate cases from squalid or dangerous homes or the nightmare of the arctic streets. Its home is run in an old state kindergarten building; it *is* a warm wooden refuge, with a cheerful and *unsentimental* atmosphere.

It has taken five years hard work to reach its present state. The Waverley Trust was established by Sonja and Ivo Fuchs, a prosperous textile business couple from the *north of England, as their personal charity. They formed* a close relationship with the Russian Orthodox Church and the renovated building was opened by Patriarch Alexii, although the work of the trust is non-sectarian and non-political.

Children are brought in by *the Moscow police,* the local social services and even sometimes by parents. They are the lucky ones. Brian Brettell, the headmaster, believes that there are about 25,000 children living on and off the *Moscow streets. His aim is to* help children rejoin society. "We want to get everybody back to their families. We spend a lot of time working with the families."

It is an ambitious hope that *is not always fulfilled. But in* hard, cold Medvedkovo to *have hope at all* is remarkable for many children, a place to remember.

☐ If you would like to help the Waverley Trust its address is Unit One, Cranmore House, Market Cross, Malmesbury, *Wiltshire, SN16 9AS.*

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Thomas Gainsborough, *painter, Sudbury, Suffolk, 1727;* George Barrington, pickpocket and writer, Maynooth, Co Kildare, 1755; Robert Owen, social reformer, Newtown, Powys, 1771; Sir *Squire Bancroft, actor-manager,* Rotherhithe, 1841; Otto Klemperer, conductor, Breslau, Germany, 1885; Eric Morecambe, comedian, Morecambe, 1926; Bobby Darin, singer, songwriter and actor, New York City, 1936.

DEATHS: August Strindberg, dramatist, Stockholm, *1912;* Sir Rider Haggard, novelist, London, 1925; Edmund Allenby, 1st Viscount Allenby of Megiddo, Field *Marshal, Southwell, Nottingham*shire, 1936.

The victory of the English barons over King Henry III at the battle of Lewes, 1264.

British physician Edward Jenner carried out the first successful vaccination against smallpox, 1796.

The Illustrated London News was first published, 1842.

The independent state of Israel *was proclaimed with David Ben-*Gurion as its first Prime Minister, 1948.

Marriage

Mr N.R. Tame
and Miss K.V. Ford
The marriage took place on Saturday, May 3, 1997, at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Rolvenden, Kent, between Mr Nicholas Tame and Miss Kate Ford. The couple *now reside in Edinburgh,* Scotland.

Downe House

Downe House announces the following Scholarship Awards for 1997:

U12 Open Scholarships
Nicola Koo, Tanglin Trust School, *Singapore;* Belinda Sherlock, St Hilary's School, Surrey.
U12 Exhibition
Edwina Glennie, The Prebendal School, West Sussex; Josephine Draper, Newland House, Twickenham.
U13 Open Scholarship
Pamela Brent, Godstowe, Buckinghamshire.
U13 Minor Scholarship
Miranda Lewin, Godstowe, Buckinghamshire.
U14 Olive Willis Exhibition
Arabella Cooke, *Twyford* Preparatory, Hampshire; Sophie Marnham, Putney High School, London SW15.
Sixth Form Scholarship
Dima Dahdaleh, Ahliyeh School for Girls, Jordan.
Music Scholarship
Sophie Remnant, Daneshill School, Hampshire.
Music Exhibition
Miranda Lewin, Godstowe, Buckinghamshire; Rebecca Norris, The Manor Preparatory School, *Oxon.*

Lectures

Wellington Society
Mr R. David Rosin delivered a lecture to members of the Wellington Society yesterday at the Wellington Hospital. Mr Charles Flood presided.

World Congress of Faiths
Professor Rabbi Jonathan Magonet delivered the Sir Francis Younghusband lecture to the World Congress of Faiths after the annual meeting held yesterday at the Royal Scottish Corporation. The *Rev Marcus Braybrooke* presided. Mrs Helen Fry and Imam Dr Abduljalil Sajid also spoke. Earlier, the Rev Dr E. Carpenter was a elected patron, the Rev *Marcus Braybrooke and Professor* Keith Ward, co-presidents, and Mr Hugh Adamson, chairman.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.C. Goswell
and Miss E.V. Marshall
The engagement is announced between Angus Charles, younger son of Sir Brian and Lady Goswell, of Pinkneys Green, Berkshire, and Elizabeth Venetia (Wiz), daughter of Mr and Mrs Jonathan Marshall, of Beccles, Suffolk.

Mr J.K. Bourne
and Miss K.E.S. Robertson
The engagement is announced between John, son of the Hon Michael Bourne and Mrs Thomas Luckock, and Kate, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Robertson, of Weston Underwood, Buckinghamshire.

Mr N.M.J. Boldero
and Miss R.H. Jerram
The engagement is announced between Nicholas Michael John, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Boldero, of Swanton Morley, Norfolk, and Rachael Helen, daughter of Mr and Mrs James Jerram, of St Albans, Hertfordshire.

Mr P.J. Cutting
and Miss T.A. Batesky
The engagement is announced between Phillip James, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Reginald Cutting, of Fleetwood, Lancashire, and Treacy Ann, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Batesky, of Chicago, Illinois, USA.

Mr P.A. Deller
and Miss M.C. Baker
The engagement is announced between Patrick, younger son of Mr and Mrs Brian Deller, of Haslemere, Surrey, and Catharine, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Baker, of Groombridge, Sussex.

Mr S.B. Hannah
and Miss A.J. Rendall
The engagement is announced between Brett, youngest son of the late George and Margaret Hannah, of Gore, New Zealand, and Amelia, elder daughter of John and Rosemary Rendall, of Teddington, Middlesex.

Mr E.A. Lazarus
and Miss C.R. Mapleston
The engagement is announced between Edmund, son of Mr and Mrs Edward Lazarus, of Stoke *Goldington,* and Carol, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Mapleston, of Hayling Island.

Mr N.J.A. O'Donnell
and Miss C.A. Lane
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, only son of Mr Christopher O'Donnell and Mrs Pippa O'Donnell, of Brighton, Sussex, and Catherine, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Lane, of Epsom, Surrey.

Mr R.C.D. Phillips
and Miss M.R. Anthony
The *engagement* is announced between Richard, son of Dr and Mrs David Phillips, of Llangattock nigh Usk, Monmouthshire, and Melanie, daughter of Mr and Mrs *Lionel Anthony,* of Little Chalfont, Buckinghamshire.

Mr J.G. Porter
and Miss K.A. Hardie
The engagement is announced between *James Gray,* third son of Mr and Mrs William Porter, of Carnoustie, and Kate Amanda, only daughter of the late Mr Michael Hardie and of Mrs Hardie, of Logiealmond, Perth.

Dr K.W. Ray
and Dr S. Gilliat
The engagement is announced between Keith, son of the late Mr William Ray and of Mrs Ray, of Looe, Cornwall, and Sophie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Andrew Gilliat, of Shobdon, Herefordshire.

Flight Lieutenant A.D.J. Stalker, RAF,
and Miss P.L. White
The engagement is announced between Alan, younger son of Mr and Mrs James Stalker, of Polmont, Stirlingshire, and Philippa Louise, only daughter of *Mr and Mrs Roger White,* of Tavistock, Devon, formerly of Wilmington, Kent.

Dinners

RE Museum Foundation
General Sir John Stibbon, Chief Royal Engineer, and Mr John Fitzmaurice, Chairman of the Royal Engineers Museum Foundation, presided at a presentation given by Colonel John Blashford-Snell and Mr Richard Snailham last night at the Institution of Civil Engineers on *Lord Napier's Magdala campaign* of 1868.

General Dental Council
Dr Margaret Seward, President of the General Dental Council, with members of the council, gave a dinner last night at 37 Wimpole Street. The principal guests were Professor Sir Norman Browse, Chairman of the Joint Consultants Committee, and *Lady Browse,* Dame Barbara Clayton, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Postgraduate Medical and Dental Education, and Dr June Crown, *President of the Faculty of Public* Health Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians, and Dr Sidney Crown.

Service luncheon

Royal Air Force No 2 Group
Air Commodore E.B. Sismore *presided at the 50th and final* reunion luncheon of the Royal Air Force No 2 Group Officers' Association held on Saturday at the Royal Air Force Club. Air Vice-*Marshal* R.H. Goodall, the last Air Officer Commanding of No 2 Group, was the speaker.

Luncheon

First Day Cover Club
Professor Christopher Frayling, Rector of the Royal College of Art, was the guest speaker at a luncheon of the First Day Cover Club held yesterday *at the Sherlock* Holmes Museum, Baker Street, to mark the publication of a special set of stamps on Tales of Terror which includes stamps on *Dracula, Frankenstein, Dr Jekyll* and Mr Hyde and the Hound of the Baskervilles. Mr Keith McDowall presided.

Receptions

HM Government
Mr Nigel Griffiths, Minister for Competition and Consumer Affairs, was the host at a reception given by Her Majesty's Government yes*terday at Lancaster House to mark* the 1997 meeting of the ISO Committee on Consumer Policy.

Carlton Club/United & Cecil Club
Lord Wakeham, Chairman of the Carlton Club, and Sir Marcus Fox, Chairman of the United & Cecil Club, were the hosts at a reception held at the Carlton Club last night. *Mr John Major, Leader of HM* Opposition, and members of the Shadow Cabinet and their spouses were among those present.

Latest wills

Frederick Percival Radford, of Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, left estate valued at £2,099,170 net.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

The Lord's word is: I shall have no such thing; I shall honour those who honour me, and those who despise me will meet with contempt.
1 Samuel 2 : 30

BIRTHS

AKERMAN - On May 11th 1997, to Biddy and Hugo, a son, Somerset.

BAXTER - On 5th May 1997, to Ayşe (née Bayraktar) and Peter, a son, James, a brother for Emily and Lindsay.

BULLOCK - On May 8th, to Katharine (née Wynne) and Stephen, a son, Benedict Michael John, a brother for James and Edward.

CRAWLEY - On May 9th, to Annie (née Soper) and Silas, twin daughters, Tallulah and Minnie, sisters for Jessie, Zac and Mo.

GETHING - On Thursday 8th May, to Nickie and Willie, a daughter, *Isabella.*

GRIFFITHS - On May 5th in Grenoble, France, to Catherine and Jon, a daughter, Edith Sarah.

HANSEN - On May 8th 1997, at The Portland Hospital, to Juliette and Halfdan, a daughter, Madeline Rose.

JAMES - On 3rd May to Alison and Nicholas, a daughter, Matilda Alice Cecily, a sister for Samuel and Angharad.

LUMLEY - On April 27th, to Louise (née Duckworth) and Robert, a son, Caspar Robert.

MERRIMAN - On 13th May, to Davina (née Brassey) and Christopher, a daughter, Harriet Charlotte Nell.

MOGULL - On April 29th at The Portland Hospital, to Kerstin and Marc, a son, *Philip Magnus,* a brother for Gustav and Alexander.

PADRNOS - On May 6th at The Portland Hospital, to Elizabeth Anderson and John Padrnos, a daughter, Katherine Grace, a sister for John David.

PAPPAS - On May 8th at The Portland Hospital, to Christina and Takis, a son, Nikolaos, a brother to *Charikleia-Ira.*

PEXTON - On May 8th at The Portland Hospital, to Charlotte (née Gray) and Christopher, a daughter, Phoebe Rosalind.

ROSS - Alex. Born on Friday 9th May to proud parents Pamela and Clark, brother to Eden.

TAYLOR-SMITH - On Wednesday May 7th in Hong Kong, to Jacqueline (née Fletcher) and David, a daughter, Poppy Ann Joy.

DEATHS

AMES - On 11th May 1997 peacefully Douglas. Dearly loved husband of Mildred and father of Derek. The *Service will take place on* Tuesday 20th May at St Nicolas Church, Cranleigh at 2.15 pm followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, but donations if desired to St Nicolas Church Restoration Fund. Enquiries Cranleigh Funerals (01483) 275758.

BARTLETT - On May 10th aged 90 years, suddenly but peacefully, Joyce Bartlett (*retired* Deputy Headmistress Lewes County Grammar School for Girls). Much loved aunt, friend and teacher to so many. Service at St Thomas More Church, Seaford, at 3 pm on Monday May 19th followed by cremation at the Downs Crematorium (Main Chapel) Bear Road, Brighton at 4.30pm. *Flowers welcome,* or donations if desired to Lewes Victoria Hospital League of Friends c/o Seaford Funeral Service. Tel: (01323) 893889.

BELDAM - Madge, of Stanton, Broadway, finally gave up the fight on 12th May aged 84. *Much loved mother of* Richard and Trish and Gammie to Jennie, Lucy, Vanessa and Charlie. Cremation in Cheltenham on 21st May at 2 pm. No flowers. Enquiries to Selim *Smith* 01242 525 383.

BRUTON - On May 12th 1997, suddenly but peacefully, Cecil Tew aged 85 years of Painswick, Gloucestershire. Much loved husband of Diana, father of Nicola and Simon and grandfather of William, Harriet, James and Molly. The Funeral Service will take place at St Mary's Church, Painswick, on *Monday May 19th at 2.00pm.* Family flowers only by request, but donations may be made *to The Friends of* Stroud Court Autistic Community (F.S.C.A.C.) c/o Selim Smith & Co. 74 Prestbury Road, Cheltenham.

COLES - On 9th May 1997, Robert, aged 82, husband of the late Mary, beloved father of Elizabeth, Peter and Madeleine, much loved grandfather of Robert, Luke, Clare and Thomas and brother of Georgie and Anne. Funeral Service at St Jude's Church, Courtfield Gardens, London SW5 on Monday *19th May* at 11 am. Family flowers only, but donations to 'UNICEF' or 'Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund' may be sent c/o A.B. Walker & Son Ltd, 36 Eldon Road, Reading RG1 4DL.

CUTRESS - Tony. Peacefully on 11th May 1997 after a short illness aged 72 years. Beloved husband of Margaret and a much loved Dad and Grandpa. Funeral Service at Poynings Church on Sunday 18th May at 2pm, to be *followed by interment.* Family flowers only, but donations, if desired, for Brighton and District Scout Council or National Ankylosing Spondylitis Society may be sent to Frank *Davey & Co, 31 High Street,* Hurstpierpoint, West Sussex BN6 9TT. Tel: 01273 832179.

DE MARCELLUS - Comtesse Henri de Marcellus (née *Rose Mary Gordon Clark*) born October 21st, 1902, Mickleham Hall, Surrey, died May 6th, 1997 in Palm Beach. Mourned by 7 children, 25 grandchildren. Burial service 2 pm Saturday *May 17th,* Mickleham Church, Surrey.

FIELD - Christopher Andrew. Died suddenly on May 7th. Aged 40. Much loved husband of Jackie, father of *Samuel and Millie,* son *of* Andrew and Beryl, brother of Sheila (Cowley), Timothy and Jonathan. A tragic loss of a fine man, taken from us far too soon. To be cremated at West Herts Crematorium at *11 am on Friday 16th May* 1997. Enquiries to M.K. Ginder & Sons - tel: (01923) 247427 *for* flowers or donations to chosen charities.

GLENNY - Clifford Roy died peacefully at home 12th May 1997. Service at St Saviours Church, Kings Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, 21st May 1997 at 2.30 pm. Committal thereafter at Sutton Road Crematorium. Family flowers only. Donations please to Rheumatoid Arthritis Association to J.W. Tate & Son, 74 North Road, *Westcliff-on-Sea SS0 7AH.*

GREEN - Muriel Mary Aka Molly. Peacefully on 6th May. Much loved by family and friends. Funeral Friday 16th May St Marylebone Crematorium 2pm. No flowers, donations. Enquiries Cooksey & Son 0181-883 4844.

HAYMAN - Perceval Ecroyd Cobham, on 12th May 1997, aged 82, a loving husband of Sylvia and father of Caroline. Funeral 19th May 2 *pm* at All Saints, Mapperton, Beaminster, Dorset. Memorial Service Chichester Cathedral in June. Donations to Christian Aid. Enquiries (01308) 862358.

HIRST - Elizabeth Glanville (Betty) died peacefully in hospital on May 10th aged 90. Much loved mother and *grandmother.* Funeral Service at Chichester Crematorium on Monday May 19th at 12 noon. Family *flowers only please.* Donations if desired to The Friends of Emsworth Cottage Hospital, North Street, Emsworth, Hants. Enquiries to W. Wright & Son, tel: (01243) 372255.

HOYS - Miss Kathleen Mollie Gray Hoys passed away peacefully in her sleep on 7th May 1997, aged 93, at Bexhill Hospital. A much loved Aunt of Georgina and Great Aunt of Roger and Jeremy. Funeral Service at 2.00pm on Monday 19th May at St Peter's Church, Old Town, Bexhill followed by Cremation at Eastbourne Crematorium. Reception at *Friday Court Hotel,* Pevensey. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to be sent to the Red Cross.

HUNTER - Colin Douglas, on Sunday May 11th, peacefully at Spynie Hospital, Elgin. Devoted husband *of* Maureen, dearly loved father of Sheena, Alasdair and Andrew and very proud grandfather. Private cremation, followed by Service of Thanksgiving on May 17th, at 3 pm, at St Margarets, Lossiemouth. No flowers, but donations if desired to St Margarets Vestry Building Fund, c/o Nick Shaw, Sheriffston Farm, By Elgin, Moray, IV30 3LA.

KELLY - Robert Quayle Lt. Cdr. RN retd. Peacefully at home aged 64 on 11th May 1997. Loved his *family,* as we all love him.

KIRRAGE - Peter. *On May 11th* 1997 peacefully at home, aged 82. Thanksgiving Mass to celebrate his life will be held at St Dunstan's Church, Mayfield, Sussex on Friday May 23rd at 3.30 pm. No flowers please, donations if wished for Hospice in the Weald c/o Paul Bysouth *Funeral Services,* Crowborough. Tel: (01892) 655000.

LEVY - Sydney George peacefully on 12th May, husband of Jane, father of Philip, Gillian, Martin and Daphne. His one aim was to make others happy, and he *succeeded.* Cremation at 3.30 pm Thursday 15th May Golders Green Crematorium. No flowers please. Donations to Abbeyfield West London Society, 136 Honeypot Lane, NW9 9QA.

LOWE - (née Bower). Phyllis Nora, late of Hove, Sussex, on 13th May peacefully after a long illness at Balcombe Place, Balcombe, Sussex, aged 85 years. Funeral at The Downs Crematorium, Brighton at *10.30 am on Friday 16th* May. Enquiries to P & S Gallagher (01444) 451166.

LUND - Eileen, recent widow of Howard Lund, peacefully at Holywych on 11th May. Much loved mother of Gillian, Richard and Nicholas and beloved Gran of many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. No flowers but donations, if wished, to DGAA-Home *Life,* 'Halliwell Amenity Fund', Halliwell Nursing Home, Kingswood Road, Tunbridge *Wells,* Kent TN2 4UN. Funeral at St Mary Magdalene Church, Cowden, Monday, 19th May at 2.30pm.

MACDOWALL - On 13th May 1997, Jessamine, aged 92, of Old Headington, Oxford. Wife of the late Robert Kennedy. Chartered Physiotherapist, dedicated gardener and much loved *mother of Sarah and Andrew.* Funeral Service at 10.45 am on Monday 19th May at Oxford Crematorium. Family flowers only.

McNELLY - Gordon Henry Anthony on May 12th 1997 in his 91st year. Peacefully in the caring Epsom Beaumont Nursing Home after a short illness. Devoted husband of the late Dolly and a much loved uncle and godfather. Sorely missed by his relations and so many *friends.* Funeral Service at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, on Tuesday May 20th at 4pm. All enquiries, *family flowers* and donations, if desired, for the United Nations Childrens Fund (*UNICEF*) to Funeral Directors A & E Longhurst, 21-23 Kingston Road, Ewell, Surrey, KT17 2DX. Tel: 0181-393-1077.

MELLOR - On May 12th peacefully in Inglefield Nursing Home, Totland, Isle of Wight. Doreen aged 83. Much loved widow of Alec, mother of Jo, Mark, Peter, Mandy and Claire - Grandmother and Great Grandmother. Will be sadly missed by her family and *friends.* Funeral Service Monday May 19th 12 o'clock at the Isle of Wight Crematorium. Family flowers only. Donations to I.O.W. Red Cross c/o R & P Everson. Tel: 01983 756733.

NUTTALL - Derek John, born 17th October *1925* died 8th May 1997 of Tunbridge Wells, Kent. A man who *enjoyed his life* and gave happiness to all around him. Hugely missed by daughter, Lindsay (Jan), son Simon, *and all his friends* and family. Gone to join Gwen (died 1990). All friends welcome at the funeral service on Tuesday 20th May at The Kent and Sussex Crematorium, Tunbridge *Wells at 3.00pm. Family* flowers only please, but rather, donations to The Celia Hammond Animal Trust may be sent c/o J. Kempster and Sons, 2-4 Albion Road, Tunbridge Wells TN1 2PE.

PEARCE - Roderick Vereker Edward, on May 5th, tragically in Mexico aged 39. Beloved son of Mary and Teddy and brother of Alastair. The funeral will be at *Rathkeale Parish Church,* Co. Limerick on Friday May 16th at 3 pm. Enquiries to 01635 268329.

ROWLEY - On May 12th, Margaret, Lady Rowley, widow of Sir William Rowley, Bt, aged 80 years, dearly loved mother of Felicity and Prunie, grandmother of Arabella, Tom, Louisa and Kate, and stepmother of Avice and Christopher. Funeral Service to be held at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Widdington, Saffron Walden, at noon on Monday May 19th. Family flowers only please, but if desired, donations in lieu of flowers may be sent for The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal to H. Pennegood & Son, Shire Hill, Thaxted Road, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 3AQ.

SNELLING - S.A. On May 10th *in his 94th year after a short* stay in Highfield Nursing Home, Ware. Stanley, widower of Marjorie. Late Vicar of Furneux and Rector of Stocking Pelham for 15 years and 15 years in retirement. Formerly Cathedral Staff and Vicar of Thurston Bury St Edmunds. *He will be sadly missed by* his family and many friends. Service and burial St Mary's Furneux Pelham 2 pm Tuesday May 20th. Garden flowers only, collection for Memorial in Church. No mourning dress, *bright* colours please.

STERN - Jane peacefully on May 11th. Beloved wife of Geoffrey, dearest mother and grandmother. Service of Remembrance at Aldenham Church, Monday May 19th at 3.30 pm. No flowers. Donations if desired to The National Osteoporosis Society, PO Box 10, Radstock, BA3 3YB.

SUMMERS - On May 11th, peacefully at his home in Cyncoed, Cardiff, Cuthbert Lionel, JP. (James Summers & Son, Cardiff), dearly loved Husband of Rita, loving father of Topsy, devoted father in law of David and Darling Cuthy of Vicky and Becky. Resting at James Summers & Son, Roath Court Funeral Home, Cardiff until the Service at Llandaff Cathedral on Friday, May 16th at 11.30am, followed by interment at Cathays Cemetery. *Flowers may be* sent to the Funeral Home or if preferred Donations to "Masonic Benevolent Fund, Eastern Division of South Wales", c/o Mr J B Bevan, 7, *Guildford Street, Cardiff,* CF1 4HL.

THRIFT - John, on May 11th 1997, aged 78 years. Greatly loved father of Nigel and Adrian and husband of Joyce. Cremation private. No flowers please, but donations to Dorothy House, Winsley.

TICKNER - Clive, dearest husband of Dorothy and father of Colin and Michael, died 11th May 1997 at King Edward VII Hospital, Midhurst, after a short illness aged 88 years. Cremation private. Funeral and interment of ashes at St Mary's Church, Pulborough on Wednesday 21st May at 3pm. No flowers by request, donations to St Mary's, Pulborough PCC, if desired.

WARNOCK - Diana, peacefully at home on May 10th, 1997. Beloved wife of Charles, mother of Michael and Jocelyn and Grandma of Olivia and Avalon. The funeral service will take place at the Crematorium, Wellington Road, Taunton on Monday May 19th at 10am. Flowers c/o E. White & Son Ltd., *138/139 East* Reach, Taunton TA1 3HN. Tel: (01823) 272183.

WHITE - On 10th May 1997 in Bath. Peter, of Joy Today Christian Communications. A faithful man of God and dearly loved husband and best friend of Brenda (*formerly concert pianist* Brenda McDermott), and dearly loved by Howard and Celia. Went home joyfully to be with his Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Funeral Service on Saturday 17th May 1997 at *Haycombe* Crematorium Bath at 1 pm. All welcome. (A Service of Celebration for *Peter's* life will be announced soon). No flowers, please. Donations to The Christian Television Association c/o E. Hooper and Son, tel: (01225) 422040.

WHEATLEY - On Monday May 12th 1997 after a long illness. Peter Jaffrey Wheatley, Fellow of Queens College, Cambridge.

WOODHOUSE - Charles Powys, aged 94 years, peacefully at *home on 10th May after a* fall. Much loved husband of Mary, father of Ann and grandfather of Richard and Katie. Funeral at Oxford Crematorium on Tuesday 20th May at 2 pm. No flowers please.

YOULDON - On May 12th at the Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, John of Amberley, Gloucestershire. Husband of the late Wendy Youldon. Dearly beloved father of Oliver, Lisa and Lucinda and a much loved grandfather and dear friend of Anne. *Funeral Service* at Holy Trinity Church, Amberley on Monday 19th May at 2.30pm followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, donations if desired may be sent for the Cotswold Care Hospice, c/o Philip Ford & Son Funeral Directors, Dirleton House, Cainscross Road, Stroud, Glos.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

CHETWYND - A Memorial Service for the life of Eve Chetwynd will be held at the Chapel of St Thomas' Hospital, London, on May 28th at 2.30 pm. Enquiries 01271 45600.

HAIG - Rosemary. A Memorial Service will be held at St Swithun's Church, Headbourne Worthy, Winchester, at 2 pm on Tuesday 27th May. Enquiries to (01962) 844044.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

ANDREW - Helen Claire died 14th May 1996. Forever in our thoughts, we miss you very much.

ROBINSON - Matthew. In proud and ever loving memory, Denis.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

MEEK:HURFORD - On 14th May 1947 at Churt, Charles Innes Meek to Nora Corry Hurford. Now at Winchelsea, TN36 4ES.

BIRTHDAYS

JAMES Norton. 21 Today. Congratulations all our love Mum & Dad & Nicholas

WANTED

CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW Tickets required for all days inc Gala Evening 0171 486 6662-24hrs

PAIR of Wimbledon centre court tickets any day private buyer pls call 01208 [illegible] (days).

PRE 1940's clothes, linen, lace, fans, patchwork quilts, embroideries, samplers, oriental articles, shawls, textiles, costume jewellery etc 0171 229 9618

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BUNNY ROGER

Neil ("Bunny") Roger, couturier, died on April 20 aged 85. He was born on June 9, 1911.

Neil Roger was perhaps the last of the dandies, a man with all the great qualities of dandyism: wit, taste, physical courage and an absolute disregard for the opinions of the *bourgeoisie*. Although a non-smoker himself, he always made a point of going out on Non-Smoking Day, buying a packet of cigarettes and deliberately smoking the lot.

Neil Munro Roger was the second of the three sons of a self-made Scottish industrialist and government adviser, Alexander Roger (later knighted for war services in 1916). His son derived the nickname, "Bunny", by which he was universally known, from his mother's maternity nurse who looked into his cradle and exclaimed: "It looks like a dear little bunny rabbit!"

The "dear little rabbit" grew up to be a six-footer with a will of iron and a strong sense of his own (feminine) identity. He never for a moment contemplated following his father (whom he appears to have disliked) into the bus, cable and telephone business. For nine years he attended the Scottish public school, Loretto, which he hated; years later on the Italian battlefield when, as he put it, "there were pieces of people flying past my nose," he thought "this is perfectly awful but not so bad as being at school".

There is a story that his father offered him a reward if he could make the Loretto rugby XV; when asked what he wanted, he replied, "a doll's house" — and got it. Despite what he called the "appalling" teaching he received at Loretto, "Bunny" Roger was exceptionally intelligent and went up to Oxford to read Modern History at Balliol under the tutelage of F.F. ("Sligger") Urquhart. Rumour has it that he was sent down for setting a bad example to his fellow undergraduates. Oxford was followed by a spell at the Ruskin School of Art, with a view to dress-designing, and in 1937 he opened a salon in Great Newport Street. After the war he reopened his business in Bruton Street, took a fashion franchise at Fortnum & Mason and later invested in Hardy Amies, with whom he worked for 20 years until he retired.

Roger was possessed of a cool physical courage in line with his dandy image. During the war he fought with the Rifle Brigade and in the Italian campaign after the landings at Anzio saved a man's life in no man's land. The order had been given for a general retreat; Roger stayed behind, having heard a voice out on the battlefield calling for help. He went out, picked the man up (despite his frail appearance he was exceptionally strong) and brought him back to the lines.

On another, later occasion, at a fireworks party in the small garden of a house in Battersea, a rocket turned back in its tracks and landed in the box of remaining fireworks. While the other guests ducked and ran screaming for cover, Roger calmly went over to the box and picked up the rocket by the handle holding it upward as it exploded.

He was a party-giver *extraordinaire*. In the 1950s he and his brother held New Year's Eve parties at their house in Walton Street, a tradition which ended when photographs of a fetish party appeared in *The People*. Pictures showing men in leather, bondage straps and high-heeled shoes dragging their wives on the ends of chains and dog-leads outraged his tycoon father; his mother merely remarked: "I wonder how that man managed to walk in those high-heeled shoes all night."

For his 60th, 70th and 80th birthdays he gave balls in the garden of his Addison Road house, the themes being diamond, amethyst and flame. When Margaret Duchess of Argyll asked him "Why amethyst?" there was a sharp exchange. "Because I like mauve," Rogers answered. "I don't," replied the duchess. "Well, don't come then," he snapped.

At his 80th, and sadly his last, he wore a skin-tight flame-coloured sequinned costume with cloak and a cap adorned with bird-of-paradise feathers. He was a fanatical cook and loved dinner parties, which he gave right up to his death. Like all his parties, these were theatrical productions, exercises in perfection. Flambeaux flared at the foot of the steps, there was candlelight, music, champagne. Delicious food appeared, as if by magic; no one was ever permitted to help. Nothing was allowed to interfere, not his own health (he had terminal cancer) nor the death of his old friend and lodger in the basement flat on the day of one dinner. "Where's Georges?" asked the arriving guests. "Not with us this evening," came the cool reply. "I hope Georges is all right," someone remarked suspiciously on leaving. "I have to tell you Georges is gone." "Back to France?" "No, back to God."

Bunny was immensely elegant, always appearing in six-button Edwardian suits, shirts with high collars and, in the street, a curly-brimmed bowler. When asked whether he minded if people stared, he replied: "I'm very cross if they don't." He always wore delicate make-up (even in the Rifle Brigade) and was heard to remark that he had had his face lifted so often that he now had to shave behind his ears.

Despite his waspish wit, Bunny was immensely kind-hearted and a loyal friend. For all his apparent frivolity, he was extremely well read in the most abstruse corners of ancient, medieval and ecclesiastical history. His was a unique and life-enhancing personality for his many friends.

He never married and is survived by a brother.

SIR JOHN ECCLES

Sir John Eccles, neurophysiologist, died on May 2 aged 94. He was born in Melbourne on January 27, 1903.

BY THE end of his long life John Eccles had become an endangered species, a scientist who believed in the distinction between mind and brain. Though still the common belief of many people, this dualist view has fallen out of favour among physiologists. Eccles was among its last defenders, publishing a series of books that rejected the materialist view of the mind and attempted to redefine consciousness in terms of quantum theory.

Most of his peers believed this to be simply wrong, but Eccles was not discouraged. As a young man in Oxford in the 1920s and early 1930s, he spent years defending an equally mistaken theory about nerve transmission, believing it to be electrical rather than, as Sir Henry Dale correctly argued, chemical. Eccles had been one of the top students at Melbourne University and when he graduated in 1925 came to Magdalen College, Oxford, as a Rhodes Scholar, taking another first and studying under Sir Charles Sherrington.

Although Eccles supported Sherrington's view that the signals between brain cells were essentially electrical, his research work increasingly lent support to the alternative view. After holding the Staines Medical Fellowship at Exeter College, 1932-34, he became a university lecturer in physiology and a fellow of Magdalen. But in 1937 he returned to Australia, as head of the Kanematsu Institute of Pathology in Sydney.

In 1944 he moved to New Zealand as Professor of Physiology at Otago, and then in 1951 back to Australia, to the National University in Canberra. In 1944 he had met the philosopher of science Karl Popper, who convinced him that backing the wrong hypothesis over nerve transmission had not been a scientific failure but a success, because it indicated that the truth lay elsewhere.

Inspired by Popper's ideas, Eccles began the research that was to win him lasting fame. He was able to show that the synapses — the junctions between brain cells — can act to inhibit as well as excite impulses. Without this inhibitory action, the brain cells would be exposed to too many contradictory stimuli. For this work, he shared the 1963 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine with Alan Hodgkin and Andrew Huxley.

In 1966 he resigned his post at Canberra because the mandatory retirement age was approaching. Instead he took a post at the Chicago Research Institute, which imposed no such limitations. And then in 1968 he moved again, directing research in neurobiology at New York University until 1975.

Like his patron Sherrington, Eccles's interests were wide, and he never quite overcame the shock of leaving Oxford for the more isolated environment of Sydney. He listed European travel as his hobby, and with his second wife eventually retired to Switzerland, continuing to write books about the brain, mind, and consciousness.

Eccles's belief that the mind can operate independently of the physical processes of the brain was shared by Popper, and they collaborated in *The Self and its Brain*, published in 1977. With the German physicist Friedrich Beck, Eccles developed a physical theory to explain how this might happen.

Eccles claimed that the nerve cells fire when ions accumulate at a synapse; but the mere presence of a given number of ions is not enough to trigger the firing. This was because, in his view, the ions existed in a state of quantum uncertainty in which firing was not inevitable, but was in fact determined by the mind consciously deciding which neurons should fire and which should not.

He cheerfully admitted there was no proof of this but claimed that it would lead to a revival of the dualist hypothesis. His motivation was religious; he refused to acknowledge that states of mind and belief were simply a reflection of the physical conditioning of the brain, which seemed to him to deny free will.

In 1928 Eccles married a New Zealander, Irene Francis Miller, and they had nine children — four sons and five daughters. But after 40 years of marriage they were divorced in 1968. Eccles married a second time, Helena Táboříková, with whom he retired to live in Lugano in Switzerland.

GEOFFREY PARKHOUSE

Geoffrey Parkhouse, political editor of *The Herald* since 1975, died yesterday aged 62. He was born on January 19, 1935.

A WESTMINSTER journalist of considerable distinction, Geoffrey Parkhouse firmly believed that the lobby system was an essential lubricant of British democracy. He may never have gone so far as Harold Wilson, who once pronounced that it was "the silver thread" that ran through our parliamentary history but he certainly would not have quarrelled with the former Prime Minister's judgment. Indeed, he himself was essentially an advertisement for it. He possessed an unrivalled range of contacts and he was generally admired for the élan with which he did his job.

Like his friend, Ian Aitken of *The Guardian*, he believed that in a democracy the elected politician has a higher importance than the journalist, and this view informed all his transactions. "Nobody elected me," he would say.

He was trusted by his sources because he never betrayed them. Out of this mutual understanding he wrought a journalism that was always lively and informative, and sometimes controversial. His on-the-record interviews with leading politicians often made waves far beyond Glasgow. An interview with Margaret Thatcher, for example, yielded the first clear public intimation of her displeasure with Sir Geoffrey Howe; and he published details of plans to soften the burden of poll tax in England before Ministers in the Scottish Office knew of them.

Geoffrey Parkhouse was born in Glasgow of English parents and educated at Hurstpierpoint College, Sussex. He took his BA at St Edmund Hall, Oxford, where he played centre-threequarter for the college rugby team.

His entry into journalism in 1959 was by way of a Fleet Street news agency. The variety of work and the need for speed and accuracy made this an excellent training ground. After a spell on the old *Daily Herald* he moved to the *Daily Mail*'s team in the parliamentary press gallery. The task of the gallery man is to distil the formal part of the political process. Apart from requiring a good shorthand note, it inculcates an ability to select and condense, and develops a nose for the main points of any news story.

In 1965 Parkhouse became a special writer on politics for the *Sunday Express*, contributing profiles of leading politicians and covering by-elections with originality and wit. By the time of his appointment in 1975 as political editor of the then *Glasgow Herald* which, with its old Edinburgh rival *The Scotsman*, forms the Scottish quality press, he had thus acquired a host of political contacts. For the rest of his career he reported, day in and day out, on Westminster's daily life. His relationship with the paper was cemented by the strong bond of mutual respect and affection — a bond that quickly dimmed any thoughts he may initially have entertained of returning to a Fleet Street paper. Indeed, his standing in the lobby was unusually high for a non-metropolitan correspondent.

To the unperceptive his daily duties could have seemed merely a round of pleasure. It is true that he loved his work and the political world. Yet few journalists were more industrious and committed. Parkhouse rarely stopped working.

He lunched almost every day at the Garrick, often with a Cabinet Minister. After Question Time and statements, he would attend the briefings at which Ministers explain and expand on their formal statements. Then he would canvass widely on the events of the day before. He did not neglect the Lords, where he struck up a friendship with the Conservative whips and often got wind of things that had not yet penetrated to the Commons lobby.

After assessing the results of his "lobby trawl" he would phone the paper. His call, usually about 7.30pm, was eagerly awaited by the "back bench" of senior editorial executives. Often it would require the radical revision of plans for the front page.

As deadlines neared his early training now came to his aid; he might scribble out the first paragraph of his report but the rest would be dictated extempore. The result was what is called in the trade "clean copy", requiring little or no revision by the sub-editors.

Every Monday he contributed to *The Herald* a political commentary, full of information and insight, in which he distilled the moods and humours of the world in which he moved so intimately.

In the 1980s he stood out against attempts by certain newspapers to end the lobby system and force all statements by Ministers on to an attributable basis. The motives of the reformers were honourable, for the system clearly leaves naive journalists open to exploitation by wily politicians, but Parkhouse felt that life was not so simple.

The journalist cannot cut himself off from the private discourse of politicians if he is to understand the chemistry of politics itself. Even if lobby briefings were formally put on to an attributable basis, he thought, a system of "Chinese boxes," would supervene; background briefing would not cease but would simply take place elsewhere.

The results of the campaign to end the lobby were as he predicted: those journalists who followed their editors' orders and shunned them had every day to interview those who had been present at them. Realism, and the lack of solidarity, brought the campaign eventually to an end.

He was devoted to *The Herald*, where he in turn inspired enormous respect and affection. He had a gift for friendship and stylish merriment and gave the paper an exceptionally high profile at the heart of the political system.

He is survived by his first wife Pauline and the two sons of that marriage, which was dissolved, and by his second wife, the political journalist Julia Langdon, and their daughter and son.

ON THIS DAY

May 14, 1943

In the absence of Winston Churchill in the United States, it fell to the Deputy Prime Minister, Clement Attlee, to announce to the House of Commons that "the Continent of Africa has been cleansed entirely of all Nazi and Fascist infection."

DESTRUCTION OF AN ARMY

Algiers May 13

The battle of Africa was ended yesterday, more than 2,000 miles from where it began, by the surrender of the enemy's First Army north of Enfidaville. The Desert Air Force, which dropped the first bomb of the campaign on Tobruk on the morning of June 11, 1940, dropped the last at 3.30 yesterday afternoon, near Bou Ficha. In the last week alone the enemy has lost 150,000 men and immense quantities of weapons. His forces have lost their commander-in-chief, the German general von Arnim, and the commander of the Italian forces, General Messe, whose last gesture was his refusal to surrender to any but his old opponents, the Eighth Army. The German 90th Light Division, whose record of valour and skill none would wish to go unrecognized, fought to the end; their commander, Major-General Graf von Sponeck, surrendered to General Freyberg. For the allies the strategic gains are immense.

We have a 4,000-mile voyage to Suez instead of 13,000 miles. We have a string of air bases threatening from the whole length of the southern Mediterranean seaboard the southern spurs of the Axis fortress in Europe. We have secured springboards for the invasion of the weakest flank of the Axis. A powerful and well-tried army, composed of the forces of three allies, is now freed for whatever tasks it may be called on to perform. And, more than all these, there has been forged a single command in which service to the common purpose over-rides national ambitions, and a pattern has been found for the armed force of the United Nations at sea, on land and in the air. General Eisenhower gave the highest praise to General Alexander for his strategy in the final offensive and for the manner in which he had deceived the enemy as to his intentions and accurately gauged how the enemy's mind would work. For 2,000 miles, the Eighth Army had been the hammer and the First Army the anvil. Because of the efficiency and skill with which its long advance had been conducted the Eighth Army had gained a well-deserved reputation as a fighting force, not only among the allies but in the minds of the enemy's High Command as well. The Government have been in consultation with the leaders of the Churches: and all clergy and ministers are asked at their services next Sunday to offer prayers of thanksgiving for the victory. It is hoped that church bells throughout the country will be pealed before the mid-morning service.

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هكذا من الاصل

Commercial radio is booming but it's no match for the Beeb

Why Auntie keeps scooping the awards

On Monday night the British radio world took a tip from the television industry and gave itself a hot dinner. Black tie, Grosvenor House, Michael Aspel, all that. Yet the Sony Radio Awards produced the familiar embarrassment that dogged the annual lunch at which it used to give prizes to itself. Two-thirds of the awards went to the BBC.

Surely some lesson here? The BBC still provides the lion's share of the kind of radio that wins prizes. Call it simply "produced-speech". Not mere talk, nor chatter, nor rap, nor phone-in. Not only the formal programmes — dramas, comedies, documentary series — that are expected from the Reithian past. But the kind of radio that comes from writing words down on paper, perhaps even from doing some research or reading a book and having a producer ask in advance, "What are you going to say?" and perhaps even looking at the material him or herself.

BRENDA MADDOX

Enjoyment of this form of radio is not confined to the good worthies of the Radio 4 audience who write to Chris Dunkley on *Feedback* when an announcer says "less" for "fewer". It is found on all the other BBC radio networks: yes, even on Radio 1; certainly Radio 2; even, sometimes spectacularly, on BBC local radio. Of course, commercial radio offers innovation and excellence, too. Classic FM's prize as the Station of the Year owes as much to its talk format as to its music. Over the years the Sony organisers have bent over backwards to dream up new categories to give commercial radio something to win: Themed Music Programme, Phone In/Topical Debate and On Air Branding of Station Image. But the BBC, more often than not, scoops these, too.

There is no need to worry about the health of commercial radio. It is booming. Why else would Capital Radio last week have paid too much to acquire the Virgin Radio Group, including a national network and a London FM station if there were not a rosy future? Even if it has been slow work clawing at the BBC's huge share of the national audience, built up over decades of monopoly, commercial radio has advertising all to itself, with annual revenues now £318 million.

But there's no real money in produced-speech radio. In the United States, anything resembling "talks" are left largely to the National Public Radio network. Otherwise, shock-jocks and sex therapists give a bigger bang for a buck. In Britain years of commercial radio regulation have been unable to yield anything much more substantial than *Gardener's Forum* on Classic FM. Why doesn't Gerald Kaufman, MP, realise this? Last week he jumped on mild comments made by Michael Jackson, the new head of Channel 4, to call for privatisation of the Beeb. Mr Kaufman's tirade in the *Daily Mail* does not mention the word "radio" once. Yet privatise the BBC and you lose the lot: not only *Kaleidoscope* and the Proms, but the Radio 2 Helpline and Radio 1's Sunday night documentary, Radio 5 Live and all the local options.

Privatising even Radios 1 and 2 would carry a risk. (The Commercial Radio Companies Association has raised the question once again.) First, commercial stations might lose advertising to the new competition. But the stations themselves might lose appeal. I suspect that the pulling power of these two crowd-pleasing BBC networks depends on the absence of commercials. They provide presenter-plus-music with no noxious filler in between. I have yet to hear a radio commercial that doesn't make me want to switch stations.

Of course, if Britain were starting fresh today, it wouldn't give half the available radio spectrum to a non-commercial broadcaster. But the BBC is there, astride five national radio networks that draw about half the national audience. You can't take these away without dislodging the spoken word from its pre-eminence in the national psyche. It is funny how people fail to realise how dependent they are on the BBC for the kind of radio they like. They don't even realise that they are paying for it. The BBC made a big mistake when it dropped the word "radio" from its licence fee.

When the late Brian Wenham was masterminding the BBC's ill-fated venture into direct-broadcast satellites, I asked him on a panel whether the BBC had lost the envelope on the back of which it had done its sums. "If it has, it doesn't matter," he said smoothly, brandishing an envelope before the Edinburgh Television Festival audience. "I've done them again right here."

As *The Times*'s perceptive obituary pointed out, Wenham, former head of BBC radio and much else, who died last week at 60, was probably too sardonic ever to have become BBC director-general.

Such was his ascerbity that, when the alternative history of the BBC is written, his name will probably not even be on the list (with Isaacs, Fox, Tusa and Dimbleby) of the best director-generals the BBC never had. But it will be high among those counted on to steer the corporation towards the next century. At the BBC, his ironic intelligence ought to have found its natural home.

The Client's Story

ALL THE glory goes to the creatives and the agencies when a new advert appears. But what of the person who bought the ad, the person who said yes, the person with nerves of steel, the person who crossed their fingers and signed the cheque.

Peugeot 306 commercial: a woman spies a handsome man who is wearing ripped jeans and lathering up a car and wonders what else he might be good at

● PEUGEOT 306

THE CLIENT
Kel Walker, 46, Director, Advertising and Sales Promotion, Peugeot.

WHERE ELSE HAVE YOU WORKED?
I've been at Peugeot for 17 years. Before that, at Lucas.

THE PRODUCT
The Peugeot 306.

THE AD AGENCY
Euro RSCG Wnek Gosper.

WHAT'S THE PLOT?
A guy is washing the car. A woman gets out of bed with someone and watches from the upstairs window. Is he the handyman or maybe the gardener? There's a passionate embrace. The denouement is that they are actually man and wife and the person in the bed was their baby son.

WAS IT EXPENSIVE?
All adverts are expensive.

WHO WAS IT AIMED AT?
Men between 25-45 who require a family car but don't want to be boring.

WHAT'S THE STRATEGY?
The same as the "Nice car, want to show me what it can do?" ad. It's telling someone who is moving on from a youthful GTi or a Jeep and saying to himself, "Oh my God, I'm a dad!" — despite having a family, you don't have to be boring.

DOES SEX SELL?
It isn't sex, it's sensuality. Sex loses half the audience but sensuality is a great way in.

WHAT WILL WOMEN MAKE OF ALL THIS SEX, SORRY, SENSUALITY?
If anything, the ad is more applicable to ladies than it is to men.

HOW FAR WILL YOU TAKE IT IN FUTURE? NUDITY? SIMULATED SEX?
Absolutely not. This is a celebration of marriage. Nudity would be entirely inappropriate.

ANY CENSORSHIP PROBLEMS?
No. There's no editor's cut with the spicy bits left in.

DID YOU CHANGE ANYTHING?
Only bits and pieces, angles on the car, things like that.

HAPPY?
Absolutely thrilled.

WHAT'S THE BEST AD YOU HAVE EVER BOUGHT?
The "Search for the Hero" 406 launch film. I thought it was a massive film.

AND THE WORST?
A couple of years ago, we ran a series of ads for the 405 Quasar. A couple talking about product features. It was the least memorable ad ever.

DAVID McGRATH

Bullock has Labour pains

NEW LABOUR has claimed its first adland victim in the shape of Jonathan Bullock, the high-profile, highly vocal lobbyist for the industry's trade body, the Advertising Association.

Mr Bullock, who has rallied most successfully for continuing commercial freedom and the virtues of the self-regulatory system, has resigned his post after several years in the hot seat.

Being a former parliamentary candidate for the Conservative Party and a committed Eurosceptic, he evidently found the idea of forging close ties with Tony Blair and his team slightly unpalatable.

"It's very different lobbying a political party in opposition to having to form a strong relationship with a Labour Government," said Mr Bullock, his teeth audibly clenched.

A KEY debate is taking place in advertising circles over the supposed death of the long-copy press ad.

Several older members of the creative fraternity are claiming that the art of writing press ads is dying out. They say the new generation of copywriters is "not comfortable with words" and is opting for snappier, single-line executions and big images rather than big blocks of text.

The trend is also spilling over into commercials, they claim, with TV ads increasingly consisting of a series of glitzy, disparate images strung together with no real central narrative or theme.

By way of defence, the industry's Young Turks claim they are simply pandering to consumers' shortening attention spans, but one old-school creative director retorts: "If this were true, people wouldn't still be reading books, and newspapers would be only a series of pictures."

THIS year's prestigious Design & Art Direction awards, to be officially presented at the Odeon Leicester Square on May 21, have proved to be a bumper crop.

More executions have got into "the book", the annual showcase of top creativity to be published in November, than ever before. As many as 18 silvers have been awarded, suggesting that standards are up on last year.

Most interestingly, however, several long-running campaigns for household-name products have also been awarded, alongside the rather more alternative campaigns typically favoured by the association.

New broom: Tony Blair

Names such as Persil, McDonald's, British Gas and Walkers Crisps have gained recognition, as well as the more usually celebrated work for such clients as Nike and Levi Strauss.

"It's not just training shoes and fast cars but tricky consumer goods areas such as washing powder and crisps that are being rewarded, and that is very heartening for the industry," says one judge.

Only one gold has been handed out, however — for the Doritos sponsorship credits of ITV movie premieres.

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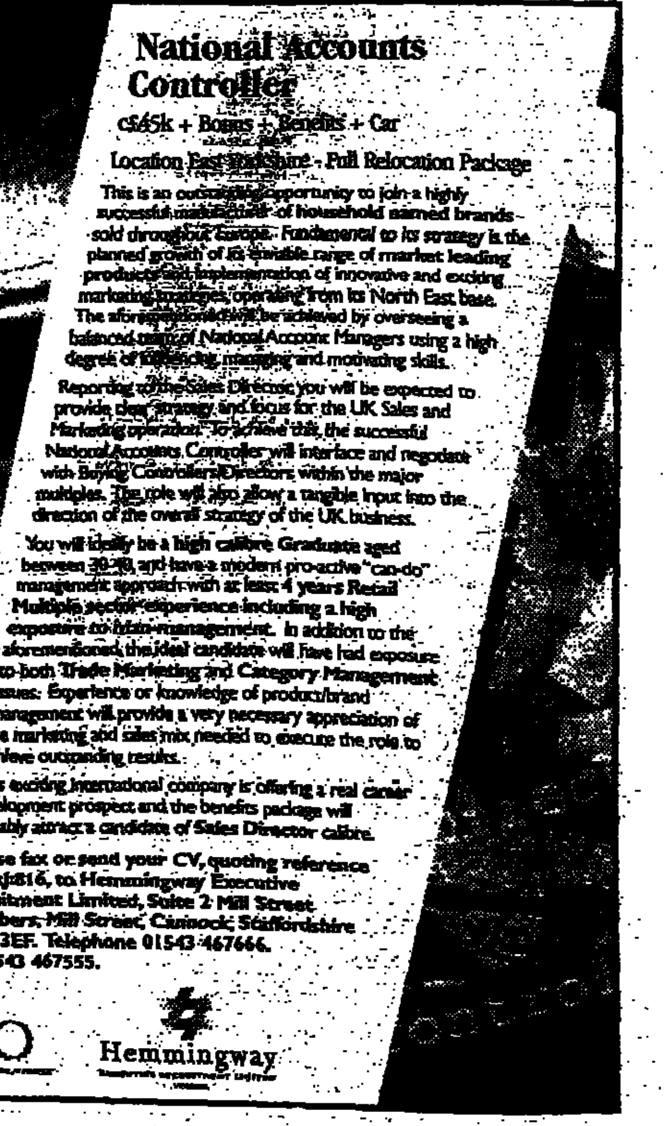

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Hemmingway

Lenny is no mirror image

THE shock defection of Lenny Lottery, lottery reporter of *The Sun*, to its deadly rival *The Mirror* continues to perplex some of the finest legal brains in Fleet Street.

Sun lawyers, already frustrated at being powerless to stop Lenny — formerly Aidan McGurran — taking his celebrity name to *The Mirror* under copyright laws, have now set their sights on his suit.

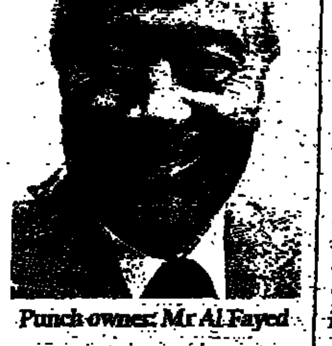
The Lotto suit, a fetching arrangement of white cloth covered with red lottery balls, was made for Lenny while he was at *The Sun* at a cost of £1,000. Lawyers demanded its return, but Lenny refused. Now he is flaunting the garment in *The Mirror*.

Meanwhile *The Sun's* replacement lottery reporter, the suitless Brian Flynn, was pictured on Monday wearing a cheap T-shirt and plastic lottery hat in his new role.

"Brian's name is now Sir Lenny Lottery, but without the suit he looks like a poor cousin of the original Lenny," said an insider. "*The Mirror* has not heard the last of this."

Punch and duties

TAKING his lead from the *South China Morning Post* which recently employed an "editorial consultant" from China to keep an eye on their staff, Mohamed Al Fayed has slipped a fellow Egyptian into the offices of his ailing magazine, *Punch*. Malek Fouad bears the ambiguous title of "researcher". Staff are unsure of her role. "We all *like* her," says one, "but we aren't quite sure where she comes from."



Punch owner: Mr Al Fayed

Her introduction to Mr Al Fayed came through her aunt, Nadia Younes, an Egyptian attaché to the United Nations and close friend of the security-conscious tycoon.

No Wax, thanks

MEDIA opportunities fly in thick and fast for Nicola Horlick, the Superwoman relieved of her £1 million-a year job at Morgan Grenfell.

Four months after her jaunt to Frankfurt where she fronted up the big boys of the Deutsche Bank, invitations to appear on television chat shows continue to flood in. But the latest offering has caused Ms Horlick to blanche.

Ruby Wax has asked her to appear on her show — an offer swiftly declined. "There is not a hope in hell of getting me on television with her," said the mother-of-five. "There are two shows I will *not* do under any circumstances — Ruby Wax and *Have I Got News For You*. You would have to be mad."

Wary of Wax: Mrs Horlick

Sound of silence

THERE'S nowt as queer as folk — particularly, it seems, in the small mill town of Marsden, West Yorkshire, the setting for the new ITV drama series *Wokenwell*.

The location manager had to win over local people whose lives were going to be affected by the production.

"Inevitably, there were one or two people who were not delighted to see us there," said producer Paul Marcus. "There was one chap, very late at night, whose protest was playing Simon and Garfunkel records loudly. Fortunately, we were shooting a non-dialogue scene and it wasn't too much of a problem."

Victims: left to right, Neil and Christine Hamilton, *Mirror* Editor Piers Morgan and Paula Yates and, bottom right, panel regulars comedian Paul Merton and Ian Hislop, the Editor of *Private Eye*

Have I got humiliation and insults for you

Vanity appears to be one reason why victims walk into the lions' den, says **Damian Whitworth**

As Neil and Christine Hamilton twitched and laughed over-loudly through their own ritual humiliation on *Have I Got News For You* last week there was one question they weren't asked: what on earth were they doing there?

The BBC2 programme's history is littered with grisly episodes resulting from foolhardy guests willingly entering the gladiatorial arena to be torn to shreds by Angus Deayton, Paul Merton and Ian Hislop.

When Piers Morgan, Editor of *The Mirror*, appealed to the audience for mercy he got a unanimous thumbs down. After his own jokes flatly failed to deflect the barbs of his tormentors, he asked of Hislop: "Does anybody actually like him?" "Yes!" the audience chorused, and he was finished.

Paula Yates tried to salvage herself by calling Hislop "sperm of the devil" with a similar result and later stormed off the set. When Roy Hattersley failed to turn up, Paul Merton solemnly sparred with a tub of lard.

So, after seven years and 13 series, why do people continue to bound so eagerly into the clutches of their smirking assassins when only someone who has been walking round with a large brown envelope over their head could fail to know what *Have I Got News For You* is all about.

"One theory we used to have was that people just confused us with *Newsnight*," says Colin Swash, the series producer. "We got that impression when Rhodes Boyson came on. He went off on some streams of consciousness that left everyone else somewhat baffled."

Mr Swash believes that vanity and a guest's belief that he or she has the ability to hold their own against three highly-paid comedians in front of an audience of millions, is a key to understanding the hapless bravado of those guests who accept invitations, even though they have been asked less for their wit than their value as prey. "Vanity would seem to be a sensible starting point. They think they can do it," he says. "And some of them can. I wouldn't want to discourage people from coming on," he adds quickly.

Before appearing last Friday, Mrs Hamilton, who had been her husband's secretary before he lost his seat, had said that the television fee would be useful in their new life of unemployment. But now she says it was more than that. "We are good sports," she says. "Neil had never ever seen the programme, but I had occasionally and we knew the nature of it. There were no jokes we weren't anticipating. We enjoyed it. The annoying thing was that afterwards you think of all the things you could have said."

Mr Morgan appeared to be having a less good time when he appeared, but he says now that the critics were wrong when they said he didn't get the joke. "I hugely enjoyed my own embarrassment and humiliation, and was confused that people didn't realise that," he says.

However, Mr Morgan admits that on reflection his performance was not quite as accomplished as he had believed at the time. "I think it was a defining moment for the programme which has gone steadily downhill since. But after the 14th video rerun at Christmas even I began to see that my magical wit lacked a certain brilliance on the evening, though I deluded myself at the time.

"I would advise anybody in the same position to be prepared for the flak if your jokes go flat, but it is better to go on than not. Don't go expecting people to find you hugely amusing. Even if you are that funny I'm sure the best bits are taken out to make themselves look better."

The flaying of victims is well planned. Angus Deayton's one-liners are obviously scripted, but the put-downs from Hislop and Merton are not always as spontaneous as they seem. The panel arrive early on a Thursday when the show is recorded and are shown the headlines and topics that will be discussed in order to ensure that their aim is true.

When this was first discovered there was spluttering among commentators that the public had been conned into thinking the sparkling wit was all off the cuff, but Hislop argued: "Yes, we do run through the material before we film the show. But who cares? The public want a show that makes them laugh and that's what we give them."

The producers say that they do not have trouble getting guests, but admit that they receive plenty of rejections. Politicians are notoriously hard to lure onto the show. "We'd like some Tories to come on and have a go at Labour, but we haven't heard back from John Major or Michael Portillo or David Mellor," says Mr Swash. "Nicholas Soames said last week that he would rather be thrown off Westminster Bridge with his feet in concrete." With Labour in government he fears that he might have more trouble coaxing on game victims from the other side of the House as well. "Mr Mandelson would probably have a few words to say to them if they did."

This would be a shame, because even those politicians without vanity or in need of the £750 appearance fee are likely to be among those most ideally suited to holding their own in the *Have I Got News For You* circus. "If you work in the media or politics you have to develop a thick skin," says Mr Swash.

After feeling stomach-churningly embarrassed for the likes of Mr Morgan and Mrs Hamilton, one can come to no other conclusion than that they have the hides of particularly hoary old rhinos. Both say they would happily go back on the show if asked.

"Yes, of course I'd go back," says Christine Hamilton. "It's a jolly programme. But you have to enter into the spirit of it and have a large, over-developed sense of humour, especially about yourself."

"I wouldn't hesitate," says Mr Morgan. "So long as the cheque turned up."

Such enthusiasm is news to Mr Swash. "Would they?" he says, and it is hard to tell whether he is overcome with disbelief, or salivating at the prospect of more good sport in store.

The art of drawing blood

PAPER ROUND

Brian MacArthur

Sam Chisholm, chief executive of BSkyB, and Kelvin MacKenzie, the former *Sun* Editor who now runs *Live TV*, are two of the most feared and successful men in Britain, with reputations for being both ruthless and brutal in achieving their ambitions.

Yet, though both are media lions, both are shy, simply not caring to or perhaps afraid of exposing themselves to the media — which is why it was surprising to see both as subjects of newspaper interviews on *Sunday and Monday*.

Star interviewers are now the Shearers and Cantonas of Fleet Street. They score goals for their editors and write the best-read articles in their newspapers, coaxing secrets from the men and women they interview, often leaving them surprised by what they have revealed. That is why even the high and the mighty often tremble at the prospect of exposing themselves to the journalistic equivalent of Anthony Clare's psychiatrist's couch and why many arrive with publicists to protect them from indiscretions.

MacKenzie submitted himself to the greatest potential danger — an interview with Lynn Barber, once the butcher of Richard Adams and Melvyn Bragg, in *The Observer*, and no respecter of reputation. He need not have worried: Barber confessed that she was not only soft on MacKenzie but "squishy". Unusually, since interviewers are inundated with offers, it was she who chased him; the result was an entertaining read about *The Sun* ("It remains... a great paper"), newspapers ("a great, vibrant business"), and Rupert Murdoch, all interspersed with observations on Live TV.

Chisholm was giving his first proper interview after seven years in Britain. Instead of a "star", he opted for Maggie Brown, a specialist media journalist he trusts, who knows her subject and who described him as arguably the most significant figure in British broadcasting. As a result he got the cover of *The Guardian*'s media section and two inside pages to explain the success of BSkyB.

There were good reasons why both men suddenly decided to submit to an ordeal they would normally avoid. Chisholm's interview was given the morning after the creation, by BSkyB and BT with Midland Bank and Matsushita, of British Interactive Broadcasting. "[He] wanted the world to know what had been achieved and who had achieved it," wrote Brown. MacKenzie was seeking publicity for the launch of Live TV in Manchester.

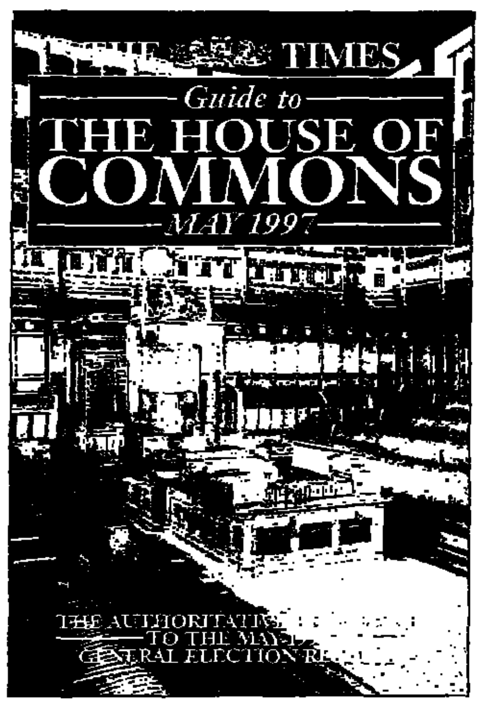
The interviews with Chisholm and MacKenzie were untypical. Neither interviewers nor subjects usually get such easy rides. Offering themselves for interview, subjects want to sell their play, book, film or political policy without revealing too much about themselves. Yet the best interviews reveal previously hidden aspects of a subject's character, make news and get talked about, which is why interviews are now such a glamorous journalistic art form.

The publicists believe that interviews are better read and better displayed than reviews. The deal for interviewers is that they often get star subjects: yet ask them which subjects they prefer to avoid and most often they are actors and authors. "Every director is 'a joy to work with', every role 'a challenge'," says Valerie Grove of *The Times*. "If I had my way," says Barber, "I would never interview an actor. They are timid and boring, terrified of saying anything." Grove's worst experience was with actor Rupert Graves. "It was beyond any skill of mine or his to pinpoint the alchemy that makes him a great actor." Authors are better at expressing themselves in writing than through talking, says Angela Levin of the *Daily Mail*.

Sexual connotations constantly crop up as Levin discusses the art of the interview. It involves seduction, a two-year relationship in two hours, sometimes a one-night stand, she says. Yet the most important quality of the interviewer is to listen. "If you listen and win their confidence," she says, "they often say extraordinary things. If at the end, they say 'That was really cathartic' you know you've done well."

That catharsis, the resolution of the tension between journalist and subject, is why the best interviews are often the best read articles in any paper. I counted eight interviews or profiles in last week's *Sunday Times*, among them Gordon Brown, Pavarotti, Paul Theroux, the soccer star Mark Hughes and the cricketer Steve Waugh, all with an agenda to to sell. That is why star interviewers are bombarded with calls from publicists offering authors, actors, sports stars and broadcasters who want publicity for plays, books, movies, TV series. With so many pages to fill editors want as many interviews as they can get — but the most memorable occur when there is blood on the floor.

MacKenzie, left, and Chisholm: setting their own agendas



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THE TIMES TODAY

WEDNESDAY MAY 14 1997

NEWS

Widdecombe accuses Howard team

■ Ann Widdecombe, the former prisons minister, accused Michael Howard of attempting to discredit her yesterday as the Tory leadership contest descended into personal abuse.

Mr Howard denied Miss Widdecombe's claims that he, or his campaign team, were behind reports that she had become too close to the dismissed prisons director Derek Lewis, who sent her presents of flowers and chocolates .... Page 1

Higher mortgage payments on the way

■ Homeowners face higher mortgage costs after the Bank of England said that it is ready to raise interest rates. The City predicts that rates could rise from the current level of 6.25 per cent to as high as 7 per cent by the end of the year. A three-quarter point rise would mean homeowners paying about £40 a month more on an average £50,000 mortgage .... Page 1

Phone charges up

Mobile phone users and cab drivers face higher charges for using the radio airwaves under new laws to be announced in today's Queen's Speech. The proposals are expected to raise more than £1 billion .... Page 1

Ulster killings

Ulster has returned to tit-for-tat sectarian murders for the first time in three years after a wave of attacks have left three men dead in as many weeks .... Page 2

School apologises

A leading independent school in Newcastle upon Tyne agreed to pay compensation and apologise to a pupil from a partly Asian background who was racially abused by colleagues .... Page 3

Opera chief quits

Genista McIntosh has resigned as chief executive of the Royal Opera House after only four months because of a stress-related illness .... Pages 5, 33

Minister rewinds

Britain's first minister for film, Tom Clarke, made a nostalgic return to the Cannes Film Festival, where he once entered a short in the amateur festival .... Page 5

Tunnel checks

Eurotunnel must introduce a range of Channel Tunnel safety checks and new equipment before being allowed to restart the freight shuttle .... Pages 6, 19

Virtual surgery

Brain surgery in Britain will be revolutionised by a "virtual reality" technique that will make operations safer and enable surgeons to tackle previously inoperable tumours .... Page 7

Swiss lessons

Swiss and Taiwanese teaching methods are to be used to raise standards in mathematics and literacy, and children will be discouraged from using calculators until they are eight .... Page 11

Lunch with Lionel

When Lionel Jospin, leader of the French Socialist Party and a self-styled Blairite, hit the campaign trail in Burgundy his lunch bore no resemblance to Labour's spartan campaign rations .... Page 12

Kinshasa curfew

Zaire imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew in Kinshasa and called on its citizens to take up arms as Laurent Kabila's rebels edged closer to the capital .... Page 13

Paper owns up

The *San Jose Mercury News* has acknowledged that its allegations of CIA involvement in spreading crack cocaine among Los Angeles blacks were flawed .... Page 14

Peru envoy sacked

The Japanese Ambassador held for four months by Tupac Amaru rebels has lost his job for failing to anticipate the attack on his Lima residence .... Page 15

Brave Ernie gets his own piazza

■ The main square in the village of Suio, between Naples and Rome, is to be renamed Piazza Ernest Foster. Ernie, who died five years ago, was a private with the 5th Hampshire Regiment in 1944, during the Allied invasion. While fighting in the square he found a baby, Alessandro Lefeno, who survived and has pressed for his rescuer's courage to be recognised .... Page 1

CHARLES PLATIAU/REUTERS

As the most recently appointed Western European Union Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook was placed in the back row for the official group photograph of the organisation's Foreign and Defence Ministers, who met in Paris yesterday. Page 12

BUSINESS

Competition: The Government is to toughen the rules so that hostile takeover bids cannot succeed unless proved to be in the public interest .... Page 27

Pension funds: City watchdogs launched a two-day "name them and shame them" campaign against life offices which mis-sold personal pensions .... Page 27

Shell attack: The company's Nigerian operations came under attack from a gang of armed youths as it defended its ethical record before today's shareholder meeting in London .... Page 28

Markets: The FT-SE 100 gained 21.4 points to 4691.00. Sterling strengthened from $1.6248 to $1.6318 and from DM2.7631 to to DM2.7697 .... Page 30

SPORT

Rugby union: Richard Best, the former England coach who has been Harlequins' director of rugby for the past two years, was dismissed as a result of pressure from leading players .... Page 48

Football: Ken Bates, the *Chelsea* chairman, hinted that Gianluca Vialli would be held to his three-year contract even though he has had little more than a bit-part this season .... Page 48

Cricket: Warwickshire took their place in the quarter-finals of the Benson and Hedges Cup with a one-wicket win over Derbyshire with one ball to spare .... Page 45

Tennis: Tim Henman reached the second round of the Italian Open when Roberto Carretero retired with a thigh injury .... Page 48

House on fire: Genista McIntosh donned the mantle of chief executive of the Royal Opera House in January. Yesterday she cast it off again in a shock resignation. What's going on? .... Page 33

Broadway or bust: A gaudy phalanx of barely-ready musicals has crashed into New York in hot pursuit of a Tony. Benedict Nightingale saw them all .... Page 33

Quick fix: The music has plenty of attack, the lyrics are sharp and clever — but the plot of the Donmar's new musical, *The Fix*, lacks wit and imagination Page 34

Meet the family: The actor Edward Woodward, recovered from heart surgery, has enlisted family and friends in a television costume swashbuckler .... Page 35

Withering: Presumably in their best outfits, Labour's female arm resembles an exceptionally nasty example of municipal planting, writes Jane Shilling .... Page 16

Waste of taste: "If it weren't for my mother teaching me how to cook by example rather than instruction, I wouldn't be able to cook," says Nigella Lawson .... Page 17

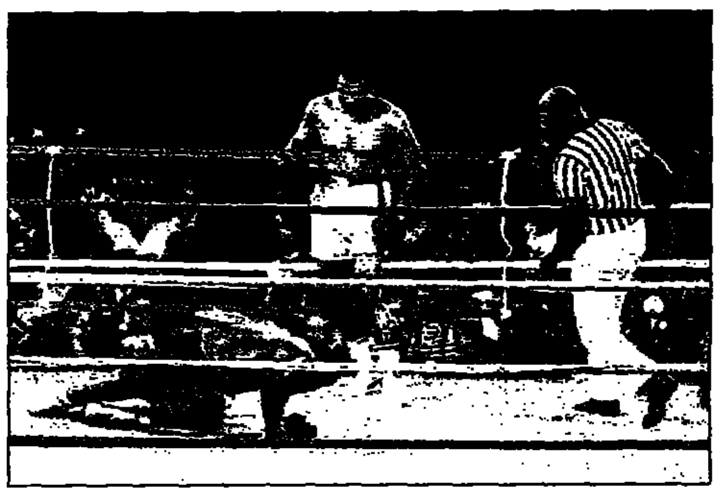
Masterly: "Adulation is great . . . I love it." Manhattan's Michael Bloomberg — rich, successful and a fine contender for the title Master of the Universe .... Page 17

The client: A new series talks to the executives who pay for television commercials .... Page 22

Frame game: Why the famous submit to the teasing of *Have I Got News For You* .... Page 23

Book test: The NCR Book Award for Non-Fiction judges explain their approach .... Page 32

Britain's election has given a lift to the possibility of peace in Northern Ireland. The IRA may be more inclined to declare another ceasefire and Tony Blair ought to reward such a commitment by announcing that if the ceasefire holds, Sinn Fein will be welcome at the peace talks on a definite date, perhaps in late summer — *The New York Times*



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ FILMS

Geoff Brown is knocked out by the film of Muhammad Ali and his rumble in the jungle

■ BOOKS

Percy Cradock on the first governor of Hong Kong; Alistair McAlpine on the Roy Strong diaries

Preview: Sean Bean's major finds himself doing battle at home. *Sharpe* (ITV, 8pm). **Review:** Matthew Bond on the new broom at Laura Ashley .... Pages 46, 47

The lady speaks

Central bank independence may be designed to take the politics out of interest rates. But nobody should imagine that interest rates can ever be taken out of politics .... Page 19

Chunnel fudge

John Prescott has the political weight to give transport a boost; the Channel Tunnel operators should seize their opportunity .... Page 19

The select few

The committee system could bring some fresh ideas into policy formation. It deserves to be made more attractive .... Page 19

SIMON JENKINS

One arm of Her Majesty's Government this week said it would promote the sale of handguns to foreigners who pledge to respect human rights. Another arm said it would ban selling handguns to Britons, human rights or no. Such are the moral ambiguities of foreign policy .... Page 18

MELANIE PHILLIPS

We believe we live in a liberal society. But our definition of liberal has fallen victim to a mind-set which says that the individual is paramount .... Page 18

PETER RIDDELL

Tony Blair has all the cards at present. But he should not overplay them. He would be wise to be conciliatory when he addresses the Commons this afternoon .... Page 2

SIMON BARNES

It seems that the Cup Final is now but an after-dinner mint: an agreeable but frivolous thing that comes after the serious business has been completed. It is not to be confused with the real thing, which is league competition .... Page 46

Geoffrey Parkhouse, political journalist; **Sir John Eccles**, neurophysiologist; **Bunny Roger**, couturier .... Page 21

Tory leadership; new role for the British Legion; Queen's Speech cue for Bill of Rights .... Page 19

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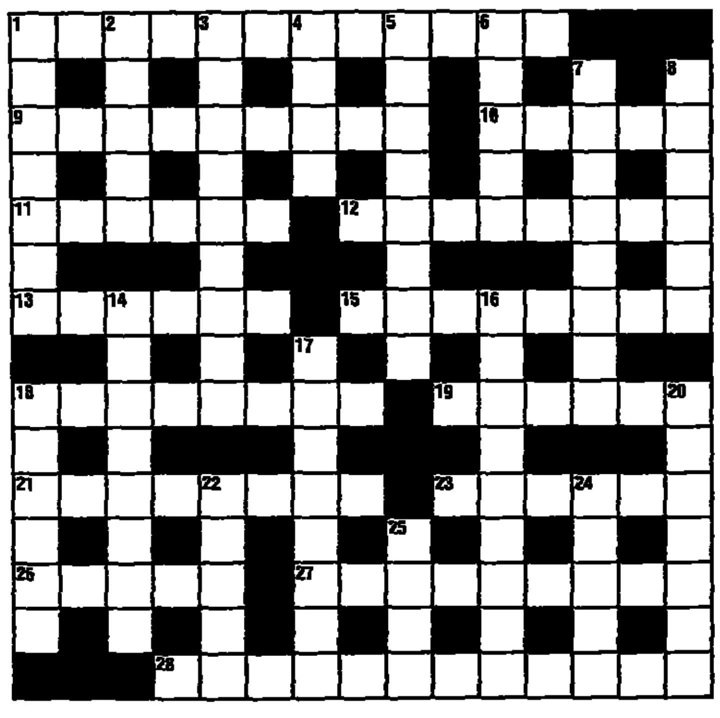

ACROSS
1 Soldier survives dramatic event in theatre (7,5).
9 Term for an American scholar (9).
10 Start off kid's puzzle (5).
11 Unfashionable lad getting hot and bothered (3,3).
12 Information calculated to make one go red (8).
13 Number, figure and cipher (6).
15 Impressed by aeroplane's last uncontrollable flight (8).
18 Provide full coverage with articles on all points (8).
19 Take time to publish paper (6).
21 Meal part cooked with lots of sauce (8).
23 Compensate for being high-class (6).
26 Wildcat strike without a leader (5).
27 Handling a relationship in public (9).
28 Smashing hotel's rather a good place to get fit (6,6).

DOWN
1 Log table (3,4).
2 Girl stifling pain put up epic struggle (5).
3 Girl one abandoned in foreign port (9).
4 Insignificant penniless artist (4).
5 Doctor getting into hot water (8).
6 Obvious I'd scratched from contest (5).
7 Digs for foreign coins (8).
8 Family tree, say (6).
14 Heather, placed under arrest, is lively (8).
16 Computer graduate put in case (9).
17 Drawing most of map without a mountain pass (8).
18 Former African National Park (6).
20 Lost chapter inserted into text in novel (7).
22 Annoy gym mistress in the garden (5).
24 County is upset about losing opening game (5).
25 Come together in reportedly drunken confusion (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,478

F	L	A	G		E	M	I	T		D	R	E	S	S
A		T		A		E		A		A		M		E
N	O	T	I	C	E	D		B	O	U	R	B	O	N
C		I		R		I		L		G		R		A
I	N	C	L	O	S	U	R	E		H	E	A	R	T
E				S		M		A		T		C		O
D	A	M	A	S	K		S	U	P	E	R	I	O	R
		A		T		T		X		R		N		
N	O	R	T	H	E	R	N		U	S	A	G	E	S
O		C		E		A		L		I				A
S	A	H	I	B		P	L	A	I	N	T	I	F	F
E		P		O		D		M		L		N		E
B	R	A	V	A	D	O		B	R	A	N	T	U	B
A		S		R		O		D		W		O		E
G	A	T	E	D		R	O	A	D		S	W	O	T

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AA INFORMATION

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: London Weather Centre 19C (66F); lowest day max: Cape Wrath Highland 9C (48F); *highest rainfall:* Tulloch Bridge Highland 0.51in; **highest sunshine:** Ryde, Isle of Wight, 14.2hr

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Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

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FORECAST

☐ **General:** most of England and Wales should have a fine day with sunny spells. It will feel quite warm in light south to southwest breezes. There may be the odd light shower in *Cumbria in the middle of the day.*

Scotland and Northern Ireland should have sunny spells and scattered showers, mostly light. These showers should die away by evening, but Northern Ireland and later western Scotland may see more cloud.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Central N England, NE England:** dry with sunny spells. Wind southwest light to moderate, becoming light and variable. Warm. Max 18C (64F).

☐ **Channel Isles:** mostly dry with sunny spells, chance of isolated thundery showers later. Wind light, southwest, becoming *variable* for a time before settling to east to northeast later. Warm. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **Lake District, Isle of Man, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth:** sunny spells and scattered, mostly light, showers. Wind southwesterly, light to moderate, becoming southerly later. *Warm. Max 16C (61F).*

☐ **NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** *sunny spells and scattered, mostly* light, showers. Wind light to moderate, *southwesterly. Warm.* Max 13C (55F).

☐ **Argyll, NW Scotland:** sunny spells *and scattered, mostly light, showers.* Becoming more cloudy in evening from the west. Wind southwest, moderate to fresh, becoming southerly and decreasing later. Warm. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **N Ireland:** sunny spells and scattered, mostly light, showers. Becoming more cloudy later from the west. Wind southwest, moderate to fresh, becoming southerly and *decreasing later. Warm.* Max 16C (61F).

☐ ***Outlook:*** *mostly cloudy after a* bright start with scattered, perhaps thundery, showers.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

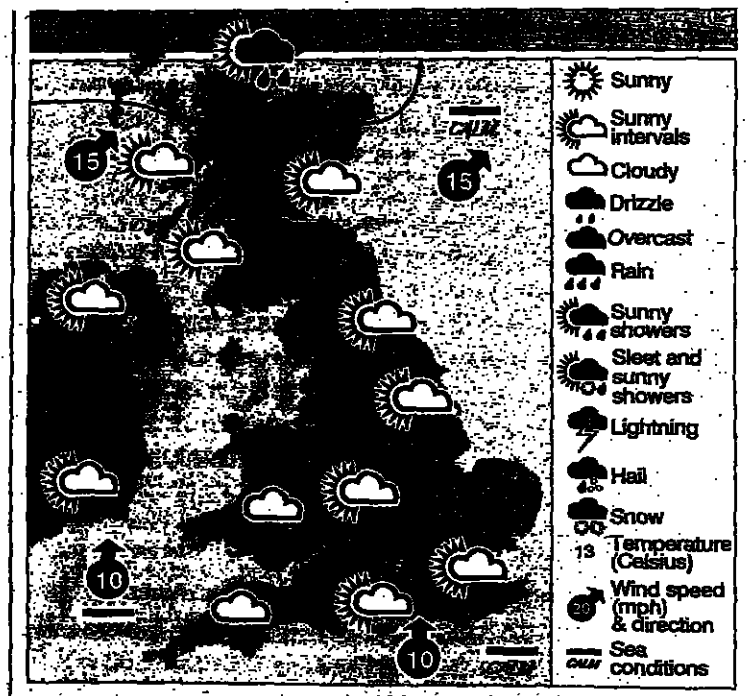
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	3.5	0.01	15	59	sh	Manchester	4.0	0.06	15	59	sh
Anglesey	9.4	0.01	13	55	s	Margate	14.1	-	18	64	s
Aspatria	6.4	0.01	13	55	sh	Minehead	6.1	0.19	14	57	sh
Aviemore	6.5	0.12	13	55	sh	Morecambe	2.4	0.02	15	59	sh
Belfast	5.4	0.17	15	59	sh	Newcastle	X				
Birmingham	9.8	0.01	16	61	b	Norwich	12.0	0.02	17	63	s
Bognor R	13.8	-	16	61	s	Oxford	10.5	0.03	16	61	sh
Bournem'th	11.9	-	16	61	s	Poole	10.5	0.07	18	64	s
Bristol	5.0	0.09	14	57	sh	Prestatyn	X	0.01	16	61	b
Buxton	6.2	0.09	13	55	s	Ross-o-wye	7.2	0.03	15	59	b
Cardiff	5.0	0.13	13	55	sh	Ryde	14.2	-	16	61	s
Clacton	13.2	-	14	57	s	Sandown	13.7	-	16	61	s
Colwyn Bay	6.3	0.02	16	61	s	Saunton Snd	6.8	-	16	61	s
Cromer	11.1	-	17	63	s	Scarboro'	9.0	0.01	15	59	s
Dunbar	4.4	0.13	14	57	sh	Shanklin	13.8	-	15	59	s
Eastbourne	14.1	-	15	59	s	Shrewsbury	5.6	0.01	15	59	h
Edinburgh	4.8	0.04	15	59	sh	Skegness	10.3	-	17	63	X
Eskdalemuir	0.8	0.46	10	50	h	Southend	13.8	-	17	63	b
Exmouth	7.8	0.15	13	55	t	Southsea	13.8	-	15	59	s
Fishguard	9.7	0.16	14	57	h	Stornoway	4.0	0.11	12	54	sh
Folkestone	13.8	-	15	59	s	Swanage	12.7	-	15	59	s
Glasgow	5.0	0.08	13	55	sh	Teignmouth	8.3	0.13	15	59	t
Hastings	13.8	-	15	59	s	Tenby	11.0	0.08	14	57	sh
Hayling I	14.7	-	15	59	s	Tiree	3.9	0.27	12	54	sh
Herne Bay	13.8	-	18	64	s	Torquay	8.0	0.0	-	-	sl
Hove	12.3	-	15	59	s	Tynemouth	-	-	15	59	c
Hunstanton	X	0.04	17	63	sh	Ventnor	13.6	-	17	63	s
Isle of Man	9.3	0.01	13	55	s	West-s-mare	3.5	0.46	15	59	sh
Kinloss	8.0	0.01	15	59	s	Weymouth	9.3	0.03	14	57	s
Leeds	8.5	0.01	16	61	sh						
Lerwick	6.7	0.01	11	52	s						
Leuchars	6.3	0.09	15	59	sh						
London	11.3	0.01	19	66	s						
Lowestoft	11.0	0.09	15	59	s						

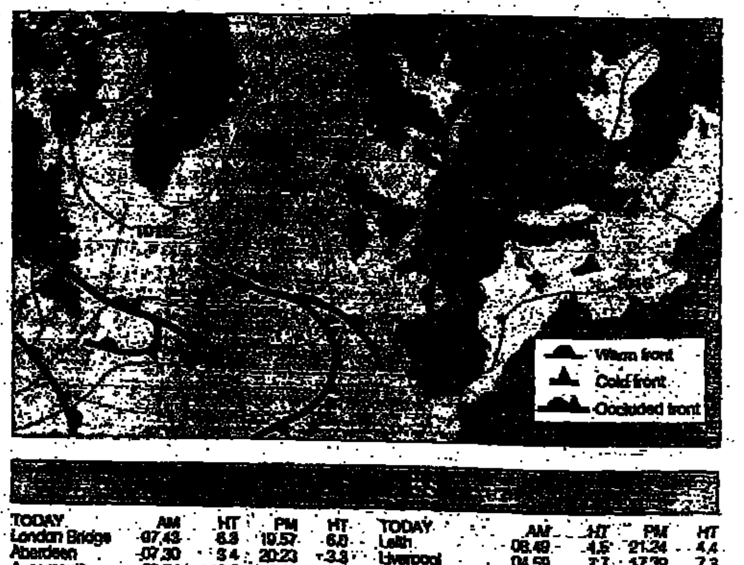
ABROAD

	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	22	72	s	Corfu	25	77	s	Majorca	22	72	f	Rome	22	72	s
Akrotiri	28	82	s	C'phagn	13	55	f	Malaga	25	77	s	S Fr'sco	14	57	s
Alex'dria	24	75	s	Dublin	9	48	r	Malta	22	72	s	S Paulo	26	79	f
Algiers	22	72	f	Dubrovnik	23	73	s	Melb'rne	14	57	c	Salzburg	22	72	s
Amst'dm	14	57	f	Faro	19	66	s	Mexico C	22	72	f	Santiago	12	54	c
Athens	28	82	s	Florence	22	72	s	Miami	25	77	s	Seoul	25	77	f
B Aires	29	84	s	Frankfurt	22	72	f	Milan	23	73	s	Sing'por	33	91	f
Bahrain	33	91	s	Funchal	18	64	s	Montreal	12	54	c	St'kholm	17	63	f
Bangkok	35	95	s	Geneva	19	66	s	Moscow	20	68	f	Strasb'rg	23	73	s
Barbados	X			Gibraltar	22	72	f	Munich	23	73	s	Sydney	15	59	r
Barcelona	18	64	f	Helsinki	13	55	f	N Delhi	35	95	f	Tangier	20	68	f
Beirut	23	73	s	Hong K	25	77	c	N York	22	72	s	Tel Aviv	26	79	s
Belgrade	25	77	f	Innsbrck	21	70	s	Nairobi	23	73	f	Tenerife	24	75	s
Berlin	19	66	f	Istanbul	20	68	s	Naples	24	75	s	Tokyo	23	73	s
Bermuda	22	72	s	Jeddah	36	97	s	Nice	17	63	s	Toronto	X		
Biarritz	14	57	c	Jo'burg	17	63	s	Oslo	8	46	d	Tunis	27	81	s
Borde'x	13	55	c	L Angels	19	66	f	Paris	14	57	c	Valencia	19	66	r
Brussels	14	57	c	L Palmas	23	73	s	Peking	23	73	c	Vanc'ver	19	66	s
Budapst	23	73	f	Le Touqt	16	61	f	Perth	15	59	c	Venice	17	63	s
Cairo	33	91	s	Lisbon	20	68	f	Prague	22	72	f	Vienna	23	73	s
Cape Tn	29	84	s	Locarno	14	57	c	Reykjavik	8	46	s	Warsaw	22	72	f
Ch'church	11	52	X	Luxembg	12	54	c	Rhodes	21	70	s	Wash'ton	26	79	s
Chicago	14	57	s	Luxor	40	104	s	Rio de J	26	79	f	Wel'ngton	13	55	X
Cologne	17	63	r	Madrid	21	70	f	Riyadh	36	97	s	Zurich	23	73	s

Temperatures at midday local time on Monday X — not available



Changes to chart below from noon: low B will remain slow-moving and will fill; low K will deepen and remain slow-moving; high P will build and move slowly north



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	07.43	6.3	19.57	6.0	Leith	08.49	4.6	21.24	4.4
Aberdeen	07.30	3.4	20.23	3.3	Liverpool	04.59	7.7	17.39	7.3
Avonmouth	00.24	10.3	13.00	9.8	Lowestoft	04.05	2.1	15.39	2.1
Belfast	05.12	3.1	18.00	2.9	Margate	05.58	4.0	18.09	3.9
Cardiff	00.10	9.7	12.46	9.2	Milford Haven	-	-	12.19	5.2
Devonport	11.31	4.3	23.46	4.5	Newquay	11.18	5.3	23.46	5.4
Dover	05.00	6.4	17.28	5.5	Oban	-	-	12.12	2.8
Dublin (N Wall)	05.56	3.5	18.42	3.3	Penzance	10.49	4.2	23.18	4.4
Falmouth	11.02	4.1	23.17	4.3	Portland	-	-	12.48	1.1
Greenock	05.52	3.0	18.54	2.5	Portsmouth	05.16	3.7	18.12	3.8
Harwich	05.30	3.3	17.40	3.2	Shoreham	04.49	4.8	17.32	4.9
Holyhead	04.15	4.8	17.02	4.3	Southampton	04.31	3.8	17.15	3.8
Hull (Albert D)	00.04	7.1	12.12	7.2	Swansea	-	-	12.25	7.3
Ilfracombe	-	-	12.00	6.9	Tees	09.53	4.5	22.39	4.3
King's Lynn	00.13	5.0	12.15	5.1	Walton-on-N	05.32	3.4	17.44	3.3

All times BST. Heights in metres.

Sun rises: 5.10 am
Sun sets: 8.45 pm
Moon sets: 1.56 am
Moon rises: 12.17 pm
First quarter today

London 8.45 pm to 5.09 am
Bristol 8.54 pm to 5.19 am
Edinburgh 9.17 pm to 5.00 am
Manchester 9.01 pm to 5.09 am
Penzance 9.01 pm to 5.38 am

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY MAY 14 1997

Tony Hales, left, with Tony Trigg, finance director of Allied Domecq, which says that the strong pound knocked £14 million off its half-year profits

Allied Domecq may fight Guinness

By Sarah Cunningham

ALLIED DOMECQ, the drinks and pubs group, yesterday said that it may object to the £24 billion merger of Guinness and GrandMet on competition grounds, but also acknowledged that further consolidation in the industry could follow.

Sir Christopher Hogg, chairman, said he had set up a task force to study whether the merged company, GMG Brands, which will be the world's biggest wines and spirits group, will have an unfair dominance of any markets in which Allied operates.

The market most likely to cause concern to Allied is America, Sir Christopher said. Seagram, the Canadian drinks group, has said that it will oppose the merger because of GMG's potential for dominance in the US market.

Tony Hales, Allied Domecq's chief executive, would not comment on whether it had made or received any takeover or merger approaches, but said drinks companies were bound to confer after the GMG deal.

Sir Chrisopher said: "It is clear that consolidation is one way forward for the industry ... Any board is going to be open to opportunities that consolidation might create."

Bid speculation yesterday drove Allied Domecq shares 17p higher, to 463½p, in spite of flat interim results.

Pre-tax profit in the half year to February 28 remained at £317 million. Earnings per share edged up from 19.2p to 19.4p. The interim dividend is maintained at 9.44p. The strong pound knocked £14 million off the half-year profits. The company said the full-year figure will be £28 million.

Sir Christopher said that the disruption to Guinness and GrandMet from merging could offer opportunities to Allied, with some fall-out of spirits brands possible.

Tempus, page 28

Beckett seeks to curb hostile bids

By Philip Bassett, Jason Nissé and Jon Ashworth

THE President of the Board of Trade is aiming to introduce proposals to make hostile bids much less likely to succeed.

A review of competition legislation is to be announced in the Queen's Speech today, with Sir Gordon Borrie, the former director-general of fair trading, leading a Royal Commission to look at all aspects of takeover rules.

However, Margaret Beckett is pressing for a reform of the Competition Act, which will shift the onus of proof in hostile takeovers, so that firms seeking control would be required to demonstrate that it would be in the public interest for their bid to succeed. This was Labour Party policy until a few months ago but was not mentioned during the election campaign and not included in Labour's manifesto.

The City is expected to resist any move to stop hostile bids, which have generated more than £500 million in fees over the past two years. Among the largest aggressive offers have been Glaxo's £9.2 billion purchase of Wellcome, Granada's £3.6 billion takeover of Forte and Rentokil buying BET for £2.1 billion.

Senior corporate financiers were surprised to see the issue re-emerge as they were convinced they had persuaded Labour that the rule made no sense. The head of mergers and acquisitions at a leading merchant bank, said: "There is no point having different rules for hostile and agreed bids. The only difference is whether the management agrees. These proposals will only serve to protect bad management."

Another senior corporate financier argued that instituting a new element of uncertainty over the potential success of a bid could put off purchasers from abroad. "This could deter foreign investment in the UK," he said.

David von Simson, managing director of SBC Warburg, said the way the public interest criteria would work would depend on who was making the decisions. "It increases the level of judgment involved in assessing a bid, because we are used to an environment where competiton rulings have been fairly sensible."

Among the takeovers the City believes might have been blocked under the public interest test are the £777 million purchase of Northern Electric by CalEnergy and NorthWest Water's purchase of Norweb.

Legal advisers privately described the proposed changes as "misguided", and said they would increase the burden of paperwork on advisers, pushing up costs. Jim Wheaton, a partner in Clifford Chance, said: "How is a bidder expected to prove positively that something is in the public interest, when so often this is only possible with the benefit of hindsight, and often several years' hindsight?"

At present, it is down to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to judge on matters of public interest. Mr Wheaton said it would be feasible for advisers to prepare a business plan, pointing to potential increase in sales, and job opportunities, but questioned what would happen if circumstances changed, and jobs were lost.

David Hall, head of competition and regulation at Linklaters & Paines, said highlight-ing the public interest element in hostile bids would change the way evidence is submitted to the MMC and enquiries conducted.

Commentary, page 27
Business proposals, page 29

PIA toughens deadlines for pensions mis-sellers

By Robert Miller

CITY watchdogs have set tough new deadlines for 25 life offices and financial advisers to compensate more than 550,000 victims who were mis-sold personal pension plans.

Those who fail to meet the timetable can expect "punitive" fines to be handed down that will add to the estimated £4 billion total bill for clearing up the scandal.

In a "name them and shame them" exercise, the Personal Investment Authority (PIA), the regulator for firms selling direct to the public, yesterday set individual targets for the most urgent cases to be dealt with. More than half the pension companies, including Abbey Life, Allied Dunbar, Equitable, Pearl and Windsor Life have been given until the end of the year. Others, whose internal review systems appear to be more advanced, will have earlier deadlines. These companies include the Prudential, NatWest, Barclays and Legal & General.

By publishing the deadlines the PIA has put in place the first step necessary to allow disciplinary proceedings to begin. Colette Bowe, chief executive of the PIA, told *The Times*: "We intend to institute disciplinary proceedings where necessary and companies should be under no illusions about the consequences of failing to meet their timetables."

The PIA said that 570,000 mis-selling cases had been identified for review, where investors were wrongly advised to transfer out of generous occupational and company schemes, or not to join, in favour of personal pension plans. Many were nurses, miners, fire and police officers and other local authority employees, who enjoy guaranteed benefits not available from the private sector.

The watchdog added that only 50,300 cases had been assessed and of these only 12,650 had accepted compensation offers worth a total of £102 million.

Sir Andrew Large, chairman of the Securities and Investments Board, the chief City watchdog, said: "I welcome the fact that these targets have now been set. The excuses have to stop. Firms can be under no illusion that results are expected from them and expected soon. There is no room at all for the tiniest piece of complacency."

As before, the new PIA measures insist that wherever possible victims are reinstated in their old scheme with no loss of benefits. If that course is not possible then life offices will be allowed to issue legally binding guarantees, which will be vetted by the authorities, including the Department of Trade and Industry, the body responsible for the financial strength of pension companies.

Privately, City watchdogs are "delighted" at the timely intervention of Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury. Today, Ms Liddell, flanked by Sir Andrew and Ms Bowe, will leave the 25 worst offenders in no doubt that the Government has put sorting out the long-running pensions mis-selling scandal top of the agenda.

Commentary, page 27

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4691.0	(+21.4)
Yield	3.46%	
FTSE All share	2230.66	(+8.47)
Nikkei	20129.11	(−14.40)
New York:		
Dow Jones	7289.45	(−3.30)*
S&P Composite	836.36	(−1.30)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	$5\frac{5}{8}$%*	($5\frac{1}{2}$%)
Long Bond	$96\frac{22}{32}$*	($96\frac{11}{16}$)
Yield	6.89%*	(6.89%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	$6\frac{5}{8}$%	($6\frac{5}{8}$%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	$114\frac{7}{32}$	($114\frac{7}{16}$)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6318*	(1.6235)
London:		
$	1.6319	(1.6248)
DM	2.7697	(2.7628)
FFr	9.3285	(9.3134)
SFr	2.3445	(2.3326)
Yen	194.19	(192.53)
£ Index	98.8	(98.5)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.6970*	(1.7075)
FFr	5.7175*	(5.7550)
SFr	1.4375*	(1.4383)
Yen	118.78*	(119.35)
$ Index	103.4	(103.4)

Tokyo close Yen 119.25

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jul)	$19.50	($19.45)

GOLD

London close	$348.05	($350.15)

* denotes midday trading price

Business plea

Business leaders called for a "real partnership" with the Government, while warning against increases in corporate tax and attacking the Government's plans to legislate on late payment of business debts.
Page 26

BOC falls

BOC, the industrial gases group, blamed the strength of sterling for a fall in pre-tax profits to £216 million in the first half.
Page 27, Tempus 28

Deal could trigger GrandMet payout

By Jason Nissé and Alasdair Murray

GRAND METROPOLITAN may be forced to pay out millions of pounds to senior staff who were previously unlikely to receive bonuses, because of the £23.8 billion merger with Guinness.

The group's legal advisers are studying the company's phantom share option scheme to see whether the merger will trigger change of control clauses. George Bull, chief executive, would receive more than £1 million if the scheme is forced to pay out. Bonuses to another 19 directors could a total of £10 million.

David Tagg, GrandMet's company secretary, said that without the merger the scheme was unlikely to pay out because of the relatively poor performance of GrandMet's shares since the plan was introduced in 1993.

Shares in both companies lost ground yesterday as the City began to express doubts about the real benefits of the deal. Guinness fell 18p, to 584p, while GrandMet declined 16p, to 575½p.

A number of analysts, including Lehman Brothers and Kleinwort Benson, reduced the rating of both stocks. Analysts said that many benefits of the deal, especially in emerging markets, were hard to quantify and would fake time to come through.

Market shrugs off Bank rate warning

By Alasdair Murray

THE stock market reached a record high yesterday in spite of a warning from the Bank of England that interest rates are likely to have to rise further.

The City was surprised by the strength of the Bank's comments in its *Quarterly Inflation Report*, which prompted the FT-SE 100 to halve its gains after climbing more than 50 points.

The market also lost confidence as Wall Street fell 21 points shortly after opening, but the FT-SE 100 still managed to finish 21.4 points up on the day at 4,691.0.

The Bank's call for higher rates also gave a boost to sterling. The pound jumped two pfennigs from its day low to close at DM2.7696, compared with an opening price of DM2.7631.

Sterling's trade weighted index finished up 0.3 at 98.8. The pound also gained over half a cent against the dollar, closing at $1.6318.

Analysts said the renewed fear of interest rate rises coupled with uncertainty over the mini-Budget could cause some market volatility in the next few weeks. But stock shortages in the main sectors should limit any falls on the stock market unless there is a major decline on Wall Street.

Commentary, page 27

Saudi prince takes £25m stake in Cordiant

By Jason Nissé

Prince al-Waleed: relaxed

PRINCE al-Waleed bin Talal, the Saudi prince whose portfolio of investments ranges from Canary Wharf to Euro Disney, has snapped up a £25 million stake in Cordiant, the advertising group that plans to split into three later this year.

The move came with a message of support for Bob Seelert, chief executive of Cordiant, who is proposing a demerger giving separate listings for the Saatchi & Saatchi and Bates networks and autonomy to the Zenith media buying group. Mr Seelert's objective is to raise the group's share price, which was up 1½p to 129½p yesterday, to the equvalent of 200p.

Prince al-Waleed said: "I think the Cordiant management has done a very good job so far to improve the performance of the company."

The purchase is the latest in a line of high-profile investments by the Saudi prince, who started his investment career with $15,000 lent to him by his father.

He came to the market's attention when he purchased a 5 per cent stake in TWA, the distressed US airline, in the late 1980s. This was followed by the successful purchase of 15 per cent of Citicorp, the US banking group.

A buying spree in 1994 and 1995 saw him take stakes in Euro Disney, Canary Wharf, the Four Seasons hotel group, Fininvest, the media group built up by Silvio Berlusconi, and Saks 5th Avenue, the department store chain. His most recent large purchase was a stake in Apple Computer.

Prince al-Waleed's investment style is understood to be relaxed, taking advice mainly from a small corporate finance boutique called Hotel Capital Partners, and Arthur Andersen, the accountants.

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مكتبة الاهل

Shell under attack on two fronts over Nigeria

By Carl Mortished

SHELL'S operations in Nigeria came under violent attack from community groups yesterday just as the head office in London prepared to fend off verbal slings and arrows from dissident shareholders at today's annual meeting.

Armed youths invaded Shell's Nembe Creek fields in the Delta, forcing the oil company to shut in some 120,000 barrels per day of oil production, equivalent to about 10 per cent of the country's oil output. The attack on the flow station follows a succession of disputes and hostage takings in which Shell has been used as a target for local communities expressing their grievance against the Government.

Brian Anderson, managing director of Shell's operations in Nigeria, said that the company was being used as a tool to get attention and said that Shell had been pressing the Government for a better deal for the people in the Delta. However, he rejected calls for Shell to condemn human rights abuses by the Government of Nigeria. "It is not my business to do so," he said.

Mr Anderson blamed late payment of cash calls by its state-owned partner for slow progress in environmental improvements and community projects in the country. The oil company yesterday produced an environmental report on its Nigerian activities just as a US-based environmental group, Project Underground published accusations of environmental damage by the oil company. The document labelled *Independent Annual Report* alleges that analyses of drinking water in the Niger Delta showed hydrocarbons up to 680 times higher than EC limits.

Mr Anderson said that Shell's partner, Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation, controls 55 per cent of the joint venture, which produces the bulk of the African country's oil and gas exports and was responsible for an equivalent share of the investment. However, he said there were continuing difficulties with late payment.

Shell's critics, mainly environmental groups and human rights organisations, such as the British Section of Amnesty International, have demanded that Shell take a moral stand against the Nigerian Government but the resolution being put to today's AGM merely calls for effective monitoring of environmental policies and and an external audit of performance.

Chambers call for dialogue with Blair

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BUSINESS leaders yesterday called for a "real partnership" with the new Government, while warning against increases in corporate tax and attacking the Government's plans to legislate on late payment of business debts.

Tony Blair's new administration will today set out in the Queen's Speech a legislative programme with measures of direct concern to business.

Leaders of the British Chambers of Commerce, at their annual conference, in Cardiff, yesterday made clear their concern about the extent of planned legislation, and urged ministers to consult widely with business on measures such as a proposed statutory minimum wage.

However, David Richardson, BCC president, took a co-operative line, saying: "The new Government has hit the ground running — but it will require more than enthusiasm to deliver the goods. We want to help. Business must play its part in meeting this challenge. We want a real partnership with Government."

Mr Richardson said business looked to the Government to consult it fully and hold a "constructive dialogue".

BCC leaders called on ministers to manage the economy to give sustained economic growth in a way that did not harm competitiveness. They urged Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, to make "modest but effective adjustments to personal taxation" in his first Budget to take some heat out of consumer spending as people receive an estimated £2 billion in building society flotations.

Mr Richardson opposed new taxes on business, but seemed to accept their inevitability, saying: "Over a period of time it is inevitable that there will be corporate tax changes, because this government uses the corporate environment differently from the last one."

He criticised the government plan, to be in the Queen's Speech, to offer firms a statutory right to interest on late debts, which, he said, was likely to "exacerbate the problem rather than cure it".

However, Barbara Roche, the Trade Minister, who yesterday met CBI small business leaders to seek late support for the plan, insisted that it had widespread business backing, even though only the Forum of Private Business has publicly favoured it.

Rodney Leach, chairman of Jardine Matheson, told the conference that European monetary union represented "three steps back for democracy for Britain" and had a "fatal" economic flaw.

Business proposals, page 29

Stagecoach puts £90m into trains

By Fraser Nelson

STAGECOACH, Britain's largest railway and bus operator, has placed a £90 million order for 30 trains to replace some of the ageing carriages on its South West Trains franchise.

The company, which cancelled 2,000 trains on the franchise last winter after making too many drivers redundant, is placing the order with GEC Alsthom in Birmingham. It is the largest investment in rolling stock since the railway network was privatised. The new trains will replace only one in nine of South West's fleet — half of which are slam-door carriages built in the 1960s.

Stagecoach promised to make the investment as part of its deal to buy Porterbrook, the carriage-leasing company. The new carriages, not expected to be built for three years, will become Porterbrook property and be leased back to the rail operator.

When the trains are built, Stagecoach's seven-year South West Trains lease will be in its last 48 months.

☐ Charles Belcher, the new managing director of North London Railway, has issued an 800-word apology to commuters for failures on its Birmingham to London service. The franchise was taken over by National Express in March.

DAVID HOWELLS

John Bennett, Westbury's finance director, left, with Martin Donohue

Westbury at the double

By Martin Barrow

WESTBURY, the housebuilder that expanded significantly with the £61 million takeover of Clarke Homes last year, yesterday reported a sharp rise in annual profits and said that it had made a strong start to the current year.

In the 12 months to the end of February, profits rose to £22.6 million, from £11.5 million, on turnover that advanced to £220.13 million, from £152.19 million. The number of homes sold by Westbury rose 35 per cent to 3,534, with a 13 per cent increase in the average selling price, to £77,142.

The company, whose chief executive is Martin Donohue, increased its landbank to 9,400 plots, with planning consent for 8,700. The company said that the new financial year had started well in an improved market place.

The company is paying a final dividend of 4.5p a share, lifting the total dividend 10 per cent to 6.65p. The shares rose 11p to 264½p, compared with a price of 150p at the time of the rights issue to fund the Clarke purchase.

Criminal complaint filed against Nomura

From Robert Whymant, in Tokyo

JAPAN'S securities watchdog filed a criminal complaint against Nomura Securities and three former executives in connection with payoffs to corporate blackmailers.

In a setback for Japan's largest stockbroker, the Securities and Exchange Surveillance Commission (SESC) decided to press charges against Nomura itself as well as the three individuals.

At issue is a payment of 49 million yen (£251,000) made by Nomura in 1995 to a property company owned by the brother of Ryuichi Koike, a prominent *sokaiya*, or corporate racketeer.

In the complaint filed with the Tokyo District Public Prosecutors Office, the Commission claimed that the payment constituted compensation of investment losses, a practice forbidden by the Securities and Exchange Law.

Named in the complaint are Nomura Securities, Shimpei Matsuki and Nobutaka Fujikura, two former managing directors, and Osamu Fujita, a former executive of the general affairs department.

Nomura allegedly made the payment out of profits gained in its own stock transactions. The three are alleged to have falsified documents to make it look as if the property company itself made the capital gains from shares it owned.

The Commission suspects that Nomura and the three executives funnelled the proceeds to the company to help to cover huge losses it had suffered in stock deals. The reason for this favoured treatment was the company's connection with the racketeers' group led by Mr Koike. The executives feared that unless the group was paid off, it might cause trouble at Nomura's shareholders' meeting in June 1995.

Sokaiya are extortionists who threaten to expose dubious practices that are apparently rife in corporate Japan.

BT expects Brussels approval on merger

By Eric Reguly

BRITISH TELECOM expects to learn today that the European Commission has conditionally approved its £13 billion purchase of MCI, America's second-largest long-distance operator.

Approval seemed all but certain after Karel Van Miert, the European Commissioner for Competition, told Radio 5 Live last night that "the Commission will certainly take a positive decision on the BT-MCI [deal] ... We identified two problems and they were offering almost immediately the right answers to the problems, so we said okay, we can go ahead."

BT shareholders approved the takeover of MCI last month. American regulators have yet to approve it. The merged company, to be called Concert, will probably start trading in the autumn.

☐ Oftel, the telecommunications regulator, is to put price caps on the fees BT charges other operators to connect calls to its network. Charges, depending on the type of service, would fall by between 6 and 12 per cent, less the inflation rate, every year.

Capital Corp chairman to quit after critical reports

By Keith Rodgers

GARRY NESBITT, the controversial chairman of Capital Corporation, is to step down from the top job at the casino group, which is facing a takeover threat from London Clubs International.

He will be replaced by Ernest Sharp, 66, a former managing director of Grand Metropolitan, as part of a boardroom shake-up.

Mr Nesbitt's move follows criticisms levelled at the company's poor management controls, spelt out in a number of reports commissioned from external consultants last year. He will be remaining as a non-executive director He also came under pressure for his handling of wine purchases but stayed on when London Clubs launched a hostile bid, which is currently held up by a Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation.

The company also announced that it had acquired its first finance director for 18 months in Andrew Chandler, finance controller of BT's procurement and logistics side. Desmond Pereira, company secretary, who has been acting finance director, is leaving. His departure follows last month's mass resignation of 11 head office staff after a clash with Alan Hearn, the chief executive.

Kenneth Thompson, the former chief executive who was credited in the 1996 report and accounts for overseeing the review of the control environment, has also quit as non-executive director. Industry sources said he had clashed with Mr Nesbitt.

Commentary, page 27

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

John D Wood target for possible bid

JOHN D WOOD, the estate agency based in central London, has been approached by a potential bidder, it emerged yesterday. The company's shares rose 5½p to 120p, valuing the business at more than £10 million. Savills, the rival estate agent, denied that it was interested, as did the Woolwich Building Society, owner of one of the UK's biggest estate agency chains. One possible bidder is Hambro Countrywide.

John D Wood specialises in selling residential and agricultural property. George Pope, the company's finance director, said: "The offer has come out of the blue." He refused to comment on how long any negotiations might take. John D Wood has moved from incurring a loss of £497,000 four years ago to returning a profit of £729,000 last year, on turnover of £7.6 million. The company has benefited from the marked upturn in the London property market, where prices have outperformed most other regions of the country.

Courtaulds improves

COURTAULDS TEXTILES said that trading so far this year has continued to improve in line with the second half of 1996. The company, one of the main clothing suppliers to Marks and Spencer, noted encouraging year-on-year progress in Britain and the United States. John Eccles, chairman, told the annual meeting: "Our reorganisation programme remains on schedule and within budget and at this early stage of the year we are comfortably meeting our overall financial targets." The shares rose 1p to 285p.

One owner for Ellesse

PENTLAND, the sports and leisure brand group, has acquired the Ellesse brand for North America for $16.5 million in cash. Pentland acquired the Ellesse brand in 1993 and controls it everywhere but North America and Japan. The company said that while the deal will have no immediate impact on its profits beyond the loss of interest earnings on the amount paid, the ability to control the distribution and marketing of the brand in the North American market will generate additional profits in the longer term.

Gotaas-Larsen sold

GOTAAS-LARSEN, the shipping group, is being sold by the Barclay brothers to Osprey Maritime, of Singapore, for US$750 million. Gotaas-Larsen, based in London, specialises in the transportation of liquefied natural gas and crude oil. After the acquisition, Osprey will own 30 vessels and manage another six liquefied natural gas (LNG) carriers, making it one of Asia's largest energy transport groups. The Barclays acquired Gotaas-Larsen for $670 million in 1988.

T&B bids for rival

TIBBETT & BRITTEN has made a formal offer for Applied Distribution, valuing its fellow transport and distribution company at £16.8 million. Tibbett, which announced its intention to bid last Friday, is offering one share for every 13 shares in Applied Distribution, valuing each share at 48p. Directors of Applied Distribution, with certain institutional investors, have given irrevocable acceptances in respect of 34.7 per cent of the shares. Tibbett shares held at 622½p yesterday.

Rolls wins Brazil deal

ROLLS-ROYCE hopes for work worth up to $120 million in a deal it has won to sell to Rio-Sul, Brazil's second-largest regional airline, ten Allison AE 3007A engines, with options for 20 more. Deliveries should start in the autumn. The engines will be made by Allison Engine Company, a Rolls-Royce subsidiary in the US. Rolls-Royce yesterday won Civil Aviation Authority approval for a new engine for Boeing 747-400 planes. It is lighter than its 524 predecessor and has a better fuel burn.

BTR sells in US

BTR, the industrial conglomerate, took another step towards completion of its massive disposal programme with the sale of a US office furniture business. The £41 million sale of AllSteel to Hon Industries, of Iowa, means BTR has sold more than 86 per cent of the £2.3 billion worth of businesses it identified for disposal. The AllSteel sale was dependent on BTR retaining £12 million worth of liabilities connected with the business.

Progress for Thistle

THISTLE HOTELS, the hotel chain that joined the market in October, said occupancy has jumped 5 per cent in the first three months of the year, with rates per room 10 per cent ahead. It said it is making satisfactory progress in switching from leisure to commercial markets, with revenue from business trips expected to speak for half of turnover by the full year. Analysts are looking for pre-tax profits of £94.8 million (£27.7 million loss last year). Its shares gained 3½p to 169p.

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.19	2.03
Austria Sch	20.40	18.85
Belgium Fr	60.12	55.48
Canada $	2.378	2.203
Cyprus Cyp£	0.868	0.799
Denmark Kr	11.08	10.26
Finland Mkk	8.85	8.15
France Fr	9.75	9.03
Germany Dm	2.92	2.69
Greece Dr	466	429
Hong Kong $	13.35	12.23
Iceland	127	107
Ireland Pt	1.13	1.04
Israel Shk	5.93	5.18
Italy Lira	2902	2680
Japan Yen	208.30	191.90
Malta	0.655	0.599
Netherlds Gld	3.293	3.016
New Zealand $	2.49	2.27
Norway Kr	12.04	11.16
Portugal Esc	290.00	269.50
S Africa Rd	7.97	7.05
Spain Pta	244.50	227.00
Sweden Kr	13.25	12.22
Switzerland Fr	2.48	2.27
Turkey Lira	229737	215212
USA $	1.729	1.595

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Pay up or face the consequences

There can be no more excuses. The life and pensions companies that were guilty of mis-selling personal pensions now have a timetable within which they must compensate their victims. Should they fail to comply, the clear message from the City's regulators yesterday was that heavy penalties will ensue.

Perhaps their newly determined manner owes something to the arrival of the feisty Helen Liddell as Economic Secretary to the Treasury, for she has wasted no time in indicating a lack of tolerance for the lethargy the industry has so far exhibited over the scandal. It is astonishing that, two-and-a-half years after the problem was diagnosed, 570,000 individuals have still to be compensated.

But it is in the industry's own interests to inject some urgency into cleaning up the mess it created instead of resorting to blocking tactics such as threats of judicial review. With the reform of the state pension system, the Government will be redirecting vast sums towards the private sector. To whom that money is entrusted, and on what terms, must be influenced by the way the companies now acquit themselves.

From now on the pensions companies must not only move swiftly to make sure redress is paid but that it is a full and fair amount. Many victims do not know how much they are owed and by the time they find out that they have been short-changed it will be too late to do anything about it.

A number of the mis-sold personal pensions plans were bought from independent advisers who have subsequently gone out of business. The financial burden of compensation should not fall on the already hard pressed Investors Compensation Scheme but back on the pension providers. To cry, as they have so often in the past, that in law there is no duty of care on the life office is unacceptable.

The industry should pay up, and fast. And it should then concentrate on ensuring that such disgraceful mis-selling never occurs again.

That may require more drastic measures than optimistic compliance plans. What is required is a complete change of culture.

Many life offices have already moved to paying a basic salary to sales staff but the carrot held out to the ambitious is that they can make their fortunes. Fine. Incentivise staff by all means but the warnings from watchdogs over "star" City trader salaries and the risks they pose to corner cutting are just as applicable to personal pensions, or indeed any commission-based investment, as they are to the derivatives markets.

COMMENTARY

by our City Editor

Recruiting the right sales staff is crucial to the success of any financial operation, but what calibre of person is being targeted in a job advertisement that reads as follows: "You should earn at least £20,000 in your first year, but £30,000 is probably more realistic. After that, thanks to a unique high-performance bonus package, your drive and ambition will deliver rewards where the sky really is the limit."

Is that a fitting job description for a guardian angel?

Cassius delivers a farewell soliloquy

Eddie George may have been delighted with Gordon Brown's action-man decision to give the central bank operational control of interest and exchange rates. But the authors of the Bank of England's *Quarterly Inflation Report* were caught as much in mid-stride as everyone else. The Governor has spent the past few years adjusting to the well-defined role of monetary advocate in an open dialogue with Kenneth Clarke. Yesterday's report was another example of Cassius George persuading the Chancellor's Brutus to do the dirty deed, except that Brutus Brown has exited right and absented himself for the rest of the play.

Debate will not be re-established fully until outside monetary commissioners are co-opted. With the insiders, they will make an eight-strong decision-making committee for the interim period before Mr Brown can enact his changes, bring in another deputy governor and, by the way, neutralise Mr George's casting vote.

Regardless of the numercial balance of power, this committee will have to produce *Inflation Reports* in a different tone. They should deliver a judgment rather than merely stating the case for the prosecution.

That responsibility will present the committee with old questions that stand out in yesterday's report but which the Bank as advocate did not need to answer. In the drive to curb inflation, is a rise in interest rates the equivalent of a tight, tax-raising Budget, or do powerful monetary influences boost inflation regardless of fiscal policy and total demand?

The bedrock of the Bank's hawkish stance is that the economy is growing faster than its sustainable long-term trend. Even if you accept that, pending another raft of optimistic supply-side reforms, it can be dealt with as easily through fiscal policy with less pain to manufacturing, investment and the housing market. But the Bank does not think that is enough. So, just in case, it is now making more noise about excessive growth of money supply and credit, which have been neglected of late.

There may be only a difference of degree between the economy growing too fast for its own good and money demand growing too fast for the economy to supply. But there can be a big difference for policy. In the latter former case, higher interest rates are better targeted. By the time the new committee has begun to argue that one, however, Mr Brown will have delivered his first Budget. There is no call for any further monetary action until that has been fully digested.

Capital Corp shuffles the pack

Capital Corporation seems to be losing confidence in its abilities to fend off London Clubs International. While the Monopolies Commission is deciding whether to allow this bid to be put back on track, the Capital board is indulging in some rapid restructuring.

Garry Nesbitt is relegated to non-executive status. The man who made his fortune from founding the Our Price chain of record shops was increasingly seen as a liability in the betting business. Leaving with him are Kenneth Thompson, the former managing director who apparently was not getting on with the rest of the board, and the company secretary, who had been acting finance director. In comes Andrew Chandler — a real finance director at last — and there is a promotion for Ernest Sharp, who is taking the chairmanship at a sprightly 66.

They inherit a mess of a company where large numbers of head office staff walked out a few weeks ago and even before these people went there were serious concerns about management controls. Despite the disharmony at home, it seems that Capital's meagre management had been considering a bid for a London casino that had little synergy with its core assets, which are aimed at international high rollers.

It is hard to see why the MMC had to become involved. A monopoly position in the London market is not an issue when punters jet in from Monte Carlo and Las Vegas. The commission should wave the deal through and allow Capital's shareholders to decide if they want to back this tarnished management.

Beckett's law

☐ THE public interest is a wonderfully variable concept. If Margaret Beckett has her way and contested bids are to be judged on this criteria, we can expect some imaginative submissions from corporate financiers and their clients. But are lower prices more in the public interest than more jobs? The answer will lie with the Secretary of State and its subjectivity should ensure competition policy remains as opaque as it is today.

BOC blames pound for interim decline

By Carl Mortished

BOC, the industrial gases group, blamed the strength of sterling for a decline in pre-tax profit in the first six months of its financial year.

The pound damaged export margins at BOC's Sussex-based vacuum technology business and the translation of overseas profits into sterling left group pre-tax profits at £216 million (£217 million), after a 2 per cent fall in sales.

However, Danny Rosenkranz, BOC's chief executive, said the company had made good progress, with strong demand from the North Pacific region and in the US. On constant exchange rates, BOC's turnover would have been up 5 per cent, with pre-tax profits up 6 per cent.

Edwards, BOC's struggling vacuum technology business, was worst affected by the enhanced value of the pound. Profits of £24.9 million for the six months to March were 29 per cent down on the first half of the previous year, with 13 per cent of the decline through loss of margin from currency movements. Edwards exports 90 per cent of its products, of which half are pumps used to create the vacuum needed in the manufacture of semiconductors, an industry that has recently suffered a downturn.

Mr Rosenkranz said the semiconductor equipment industry was still relatively depressed. "For the next year to 18 months, this industry could be choppy. We won't see strong underlying growth until the end of next year or 1999," he predicted. BOC's core industrial gases business raised operating profit 1 per cent to £199 million, mainly because of strong profit gains in Japan and other North Pacific markets.

BOC's US gases business was held back by the cost of a £4 million restructuring and the translation of dollar profits into sterling but the company expects to benefit from robust demand. Weak manufacturing output in the UK in the first quarter kept the lid on growth in the UK, where BOC faces stiff price competition in the market for liquefied gas.

BOC's healthcare division, still being affected by competition on price, to its Forane anaesthetic product, saw profits fall 8 per cent, to £26.1 million. The company said that price erosion was slowing and Forane was holding its share of the market.

Mr Rosenkranz said that BOC hedged the currency risk in transactions, mainly for its vacuum technology business. BOC's cashflow grew strongly in the first half because of better control of working capital but capital expenditure also rose, from £324 million to £359 million. BOC is paying a second interim dividend of 14.5p in August, after earnings of 28.37p a share, up 2 per cent on the previous year. Excluding the effect of currency translation, earnings would have grown 7 per cent over the previous year.

Tempus, page 28

Zeneca to pay £46m for Dutch firm

ZENECA, the drugs and agrochemicals group, has agreed to pay £46 million for a Dutch biotechnology company that uses genetic modification to develop improved crops (Eric Reguly writes).

Zeneca is buying Mogen International, whose shares are on the unlisted securities market in Amsterdam, with a public share offer at £4.46 a share. Shareholders representing 51 per cent of the equity have accepted the offer. The takeover should be completed next month.

David Evans, research and development director of Zeneca Agrochemicals, said: "The acquisition . . . fits well with Zeneca's strategy of developing a strong position in plant biotechnology."

Mogen develops technology that gives crops such as wheat and barley resistance to fungal diseases.

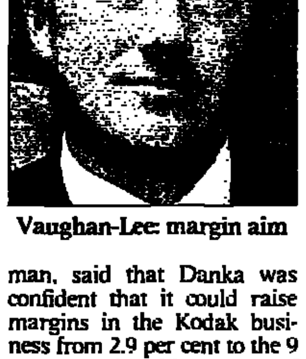
Danka expects to slice $100m from Kodak costs

By Fraser Nelson

DANKA, the business systems supplier that doubled in size in January after swallowing Kodak's photocopying arm, said that it should squeeze $100 million of cost savings from the acquisitions over the next two years.

The company, which agreed to pay £440 million for the lion's share of Eastman Kodak's office supplies division last September, said that the integration was going well and should be largely complete within 14 months.

A three-month contribution from the Kodak business helped sales to jump by 67 per cent, to £1.32 billion, in the year to March 31, with gross profits at £198 million (£98 million). Newly-acquired businesses, which cost $200 million before Kodak, generated £143 million of the profit.


Vaughan-Lee: margin aim

Mark Vaughan-Lee, chairman, said that Danka was confident that it could raise margins in the Kodak business from 2.9 per cent to the 9 per cent enjoyed by the rest of the group. This would have delivered an extra $100 million in profits last year.

He said: "It does sound ambitious, but we have been doing this frequently with our other acquisitions."

Mr Vaughan-Lee said that Danka would be easing away from making acquisitions this year, and concentrating on bedding in the Kodak company. He said: "If you look at the cost saving we intend to produce from this, Kodak will have made enough acquisitions for the next three years."

The company took a £45.6 million charge for the costs of integrating the Kodak business, with £20.6 million taken in the fourth quarter as borrowings rose to £775 million.

This cut pre-tax profits to £29 million, from £53.9 million, and earnings per share to 0.3p (5.7p). A final dividend of 1.3p, due on July 28, takes the total to 2.6p.

Danka shares, which have recovered from a low of 425p, rose 20p, to 567½p, yesterday.

Tempus, page 28

Doubled operating profits for GA

By Adam Jones

GENERAL ACCIDENT more than doubled operating profits to £114 million (£55 million) in the first quarter of 1997, as better winter weather reduced claims.

The market expected yesterday's quarterly results to be good. General Accident's share price has outperformed the sector by 11 per cent this year. The shares dipped from 963p to close at 957½p.

Profit before tax was £328 million (£109 million). This figure was boosted by a £220 million gain realised as General Accident moved investments out of equity markets and into bonds.

The shift, accounting for about a tenth of the equity portfolio, is part of an ongoing policy of focusing risk on insurance activities rather than investment.

The worldwide underwriting result rose by £50 million, including a reduction in severe weather payments of £30 million.

Worldwide premium income rose slightly to £1.51 billion (£1.47 billion). British underwriting activities made £6 million profit (£11 million loss). Sales of life and pensions products were up 9 per cent worldwide.

Bob Scott, chief executive, said the UK market, the largest source of general underwriting income, was still tough, despite the first quarter improvement: "We remain vigilant in the competitive environment which is clearly evident in most classes of business."

Tempus, page 28

ADRIAN SHERRATT

Marcus Margulies gave a warning on future growth

Time shares suffer

SHARES of Time Products suffered their sharpest one-day fall in ten years yesterday after the watches and handbags company said that its recent progress had been established on potentially shaky ground (Fraser Nelson writes).

The company met market expectations by lifting pre-tax profits to £22 million (£16.6 million) for the year to January 31. However, Marcus Margulies, chairman, said: "It should not be assumed that the remarkable growth generated in recent years will be sustained over the longer term." Shares plunged 44p to 361½p.

Earnings rose from 20.2p to 26.2p. A final dividend of 7.5p lifts the total to 12p (10p), due on July 7.

Sedgwick to seek listing in New York

By Adam Jones

SEDGWICK GROUP, the UK's biggest insurance broker, is seeking a listing on the New York Stock Exchange. It also announced results yesterday for the first quarter of 1997 showing a dip in pre-tax profits to £43.5 million (£45.3 million). The company blamed the fall on the strength of sterling, which pulled back profits by £3.4 million.

Sedgwick is currently traded on an informal basis in the US over-the-counter market. Stuart Tarrant, finance director, said that the broker wants to increase the number of US investors through a Wall Street listing of American depositary shares. They account for only 10 per cent of the shareholder base, even though more than 40 per cent of the company's business is drawn from the US. The goal is for a third of shareholders to be American.

Mr Tarrant said that the US values insurance brokers up to 25 per cent higher than London. The company hopes there will be a knock-on effect on its UK rating, which has dropped from 272p in 1991 to about 130.5p. Wall Street trading should start in June.

In the first quarter of 1997, revenue fell to £244.5 million, from £254.9 million in the corresponding period last year. Saxon Riley, chairman, said the broker is looking to opportunities in Europe similar to April's joint venture with Nikols, Italy's largest broker.

He said: "We are exploring further opportunities to develop our presence in continental Europe, where the broker's role is still underrated . . ."

Fuji links with JSkyB

THE News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*, is to announce this morning that the Fuji Television Network will join JSkyB, its satellite broadcasting business in Japan. Fuji will become an equal partner along with Sony and Softbank, the Japanese software publisher.

Fuji, one of Japan's largest terrestrial broadcasters, will provide programming content and technology to JSkyB, which aims to broadcast 150 channels by next spring. Analysts said the Fuji deal will give JSkyB a competitive edge over DirecTV, which wants to start a Japanese service in the autumn.

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هكذا من الاجل

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Shares drop back after breaking through 4,700

THE London market soared through 4,700 for the first time as share prices notched up their eighth consecutive day of closing record highs.

Again, it was prompted by another solid performance overnight on Wall Street that carried the Dow Jones industrial average 123 points higher.

The FT-SE 100 index was 50.7 higher at one stage, but eventually saw those early gains halved as New York showed signs of consolidating its position. The index finished 21.4 up at a new closing high of 4,691.0. It has now enjoyed 11 consecutive days of gains, stretching the lead in the index to 321.3, or 7.3 per cent.

Stock shortages and the absence of institutional sellers continues to squeeze prices higher in a market already short of stock. Not even the warning from the Bank of England in its latest quarterly inflation survey emphasising the need for further rises in interest rates could dampen sentiment.

The Guinness/GrandMet merger has also generated a revival in takeover speculation. Brokers say the financial sector seems the most likely target for action. Last night the gossips were talking about a bid of £12.50 a share for **Abbey National**, up 38½p at a new high of 957½p, from **HSBC**, down 8½p at £18.20. This would value the Abbey at £17.5 billion. But the speculation provided further impetus to other potential targets in the sector with **Royal Bank of Scotland** adding 25½p at 649½p, and **Bank of Scotland** 10p at 426½p.

SmithKline Beecham stood out with a rise of 22p at £10.64. Hugh Collum, finance director, is talking to brokers this week. He has already spoken to NatWest Securities and UBS and is confident of achieving 15 per cent earnings growth. US buying also drove up **Zeneca**, 24½p at £19.67½, and **Glaxo Wellcome**, 33p better at £12.44½. **Cortecs International** rose 25p to 268½p on the back of an encouraging update on trials for its osteoporosis treatment.

The strong pound is reckoned to have cost **BOC Group** £23 million during the first six months, but brokers expressed approval at the group's performance and this was reflected in the price, up 9½p to 984½p.

APV rose 2p to 109p after Siebe raised its holding in the company to 9.7 per cent. Its broker Dresdner Kleinwort Benson paid 107p for a total of 20 million shares. The terms from Siebe, up 16p at 987p, value APV at £327 million. Hopes that another bidder may emerge appear to be receding.

The news that billionaire Prince al-Waleed bin Talal had paid $40 million for a 3 per cent stake in **Cordiant** lifted the price 1½p at 129½p. Cordiant owns the Saatchi & Saatchi advertising agency and last month announced plans to demerge into three separate divisions.

Bid speculation prompted a rise of 19p to 322½p in Christie's International. Only last week Joseph Lewis, the financier, raised his stake in the fine art auctioneer to just under 30 per cent. Now there is talk he may launch a bid for the rest. There was heavy turnover in **Sears** with the price expanding 1½p to 78p as a total of 12.2 million shares changed hands. Whispers in the Square Mile claim Merrill Lynch, the broker, is trying to pick up a total of 25 million shares ahead of going ex dividend on Monday.

WH Smith dipped 9½p to 470½p as SBC Warburg dropped its recommendation for the shares from a "buy" to a "hold".

Rank Group touched 458½p before seeing its lead reduced to close ½p firmer at 452p. By moving above the 450p level, the chartists claim the shares have staged a "breakout" and could be set to make further headway.

Applied Distribution added a further 2½p to 45p after Tibbett & Britten confirmed plans to launch a bid of 48p a share valuing the company at £17 million. **Tibbett & Britten** was unchanged at 622½p.

Meristem dropped 9½p to 57½p after warning that profits for the first half would substantially fail to match those reported in 1996.

A profits warning also left **Roskel** nursing a 12p fall at 67p. The group's distribution division had failed to live up to expectations.

A jump of one-third in profits at **Time Products** last year failed to impress brokers and left the shares nursing a fall of 44p at 361½p.

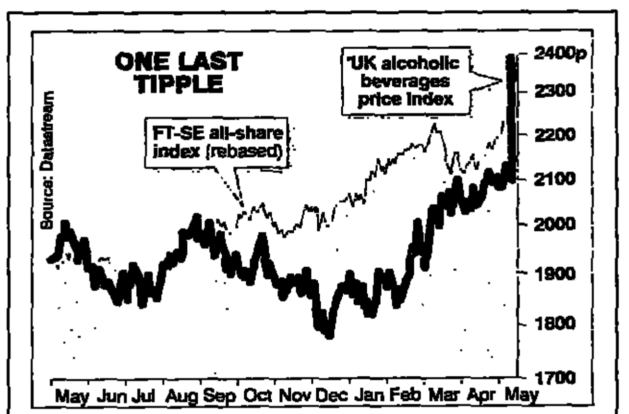
☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Monday's gains were reversed after the Bank of England set the record straight and gave warning in its latest inflation survey that interest rates will need to rise again. The Bank of England has confirmed the next auction will include the issue of £1.5 billion of Treasury 7 per cent 2002 and £1.5 billion of Treasury 8 per cent 2021. The total amount being issued was at the lower end of expectations.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt finished £7/32 lower at £114 7/32 in heavy turnover that saw 111,000 contracts completed.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 finished a tick lower at £109 15/32, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £3/16 off at £103 17/32.

NEW YORK: Blue chips spent most of the morning in negative territory, with the Dow Jones industrial average down 3.30 points at midday to 7,289.45.

Danny Rosenkranz, left, and Tony Isaac saw BOC's price leap



Further reflection on their proposed £23.8 billion merger left Guinness 18p off at 584½p and Grand Metropolitan 16p lighter at 575½p.

Lehman Brothers has reduced its recommendation for Guinness from "strong buy" to "outperformer", while Dresdner Kleinwort Benson says clients should switch from Guinness into GrandMet.

Matthew Jordan, at Kleinwort, said: "We think it's a good merger but better for GrandMet than Guinness. It's better to be more heavily weighted towards GrandMet." Even so, there are growing fears that the deal will be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Now the speculators want to see if Allied Domecq, up 17p at 463½p after yesterday's figures, can conjure up a similar deal with Seagram or Suntory in Japan.

"I don't see any deal with Allied for 18 months," Mr Jordan said. Last year, Allied reached 556p, but it has been depressed by restructuring moves and the slowness in resolving the Carlsberg Tetley disposal.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones .... 7289.45 (-3.30)
S&P Composite .... 836.36 (-1.30)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average .... 20129.11 (-14.40)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng .... 13906.46 (-81.34)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index .... 786.03 (-2.05)

Sydney:
AO .... 2534.3 (+9.5)

Frankfurt:
DAX .... 3595.15 (+19.78)

Singapore:
Straits .... 2112.97 (+11.49)

Brussels:
General .... 12679.98 (+32.36)

Paris:
CAC-40 .... 2719.58 (+26.49)

Zurich:
SKA Gen .... 1040.20 (+7.80)

London:
FT 30 .... 3018.6 (+4.3)
FTSE 100 .... 4691.0 (+21.4)
FTSE 250 .... 4533.0 (+6.6)
FTSE 350 .... 2271.6 (+9.0)
FTSE Eurotrack 100 .... 2315.77 (+20.81)
FTSE All-Share .... 2230.66 (+8.47)
FTSE Non Financials .... 2241.34 (+10.39)
FTSE Fixed Interest .... 121.02 (-0.22)
FTSE Govt Secs .... 97.23 (+0.66)
Bargains 62511
SEAQ Volume 950.3m
US$ .... 1.6318 (+0.0070)
German Mark .... 2.7697 (+0.0066)
Exchange Index .... 98.8 (+0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
£:ECU 1.4119
£:SDR 1.1663
RPI .... 155.4 Mar (2.6%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX .... 154.9 Mar (2.7%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Alliance & Leicester	602	- 11½
Aston Villa	937½	- 37½
Aurora Inv Trust	101	...
Cable & Wireless	288½	+ 2
Charlton Athletic	57½	...
Close Bros Prot VCT	95	...
Comino	147½	...
Donatantonio	86	+ 3
Dragons Hlth Clubs	125½	...
Heal's	210½	- 2
ITG Group	160	...
Lady in Leisure	126½	...
Longbridge Intl	117½	...
Mrtn Currie I&G Cap	91½	...
Mrtn Currie I&G Inc	98	...
NMT (50)	50	...
Newcastle Utd	122	- 1
Northstar Secs	29	...
Oxford Tech Venture	115	...
Partners Hldgs	172½	+ 1
Pennine AIM (100)	100	...
Petra Diamonds	62½	...
Petra Diamonds Wts	37½	...
Qualceram (143)	155½	...
Salehurst	121½	...
Soccer Investments	103½	...
Torch Hldgs	107½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Barlows n/p (525)	2	...
Bolton Gp (Intl) n/p (8)	½	...
Enterprise n/p (196)	53½	+ 1
Oxford Mldr (360)	29	- 5
Rackwood n/p (50)	1½	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Cortecs .... 268½p (+25p)
Christies Intl .... 322½p (+19p)
Cairn Energy .... 541p (+31½p)
JBA Hldgs .... 895p (+50p)
Danka Bs Sys .... 567½p (+20p)
JJB Sports .... 514p (+14p)
Parity .... 570p (+14p)

FALLS:
Chiroscience .... 316p (-15p)
Jardine Matth .... 383½p (-15p)
Peptide Thera .... 334p (-11p)
Guinness .... 584½p (-18p)
Grand Met .... 575½p (-16p)

Closing Prices Page 31

TEMPUS

Allied troops in disarray

IF THE market was caught on the hop by the Guinness/GrandMet merger, it is nothing compared to the shock waves that went through the Allied Domecq boardroom. One of its directors confessed to cutting himself shaving on Monday morning when he heard the news on the radio but the core of the problem for investors is that Allied appears to have no strategy to respond.

The company's muted reaction speaks volumes about the internal confusion, as do vague claims that Allied could benefit from opportunities emerging from its rivals' merger. The prospect of a few weak brands being swept from the Guinness and GrandMet cupboards is not the sort of thing Allied shareholders want to look forward to.

As ever, the market's response to a policy vacuum is to inject bid speculation and Allied's price reacted accordingly. The interim figures were neutral, punished by the strength of sterling but hardly good enough to push the shares up 18p. Retailing profits fell but Allied is at last making serious efforts to build its portfolio of also-ran spirits brands.

Although the best deal in the drinks sector has now been done, others are expected to follow. A merger of Seagram and Allied Domecq, for example, would result in overlap in brand categories but that does not preclude a deal. The monolithic GMG Brands will drive smaller companies together.

Allied's shares have lacked the lustre of Guinness and GrandMet and are still a long way from their 502p peak of a year ago. They hardly deserve outperformance but they could be swept even higher in the wake of the GMG tornado.

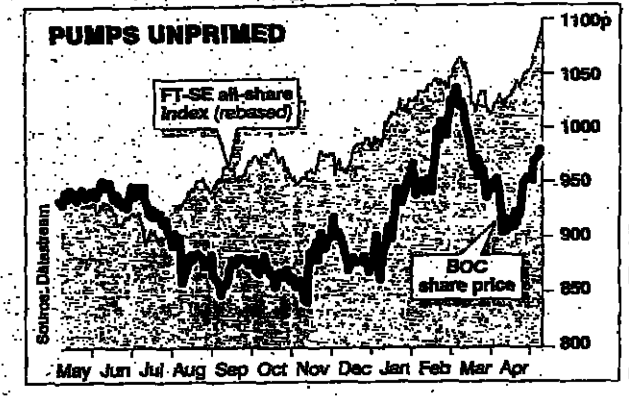
BOC Group

CURRENCY is a red herring for BOC investors. The company made much of the pain from the rise of the pound, but the real issue is whether BOC's non-core businesses can deliver the goods.

The semiconductor industry's well-publicised recession is hurting BOC's vacuum pumps business. Like any nascent high-tech industry, the production cycle is boom and bust, a fact that raw material suppliers to Intel and Motorola have learnt to their cost. Yet BOC's pumps, which create the vacuum necessary for the manufacture of semiconductors, are capital equipment, not raw materials. While order books are said to be on the mend, it will take a longer time for the electronics industry to build factories and order equipment. In the meantime, BOC suffers price pressure; the pumps sell for half their value five years ago and UK manufacturing is becoming more expensive if your customers are in Asia and paying in dollars.

BOC's pharmaceutical business, meanwhile, weakens as price erosion from generic competitors continues to affect Forane. The loss of a patent is troubling enough for the pharmaceutical giants, with pipelines stuffed with new products. Why should BOC expend time and money ploughing away at this market in the hope of securing another winner?

The shares will drift until BOC solves this dilemma.



General Accident

THE market likes Bob Scott, chief executive of General Accident. The insurer's share price has risen from about £7 to nearly £10 this year.

One reason is the prescient purchase of Provident Mutual for £170 million in 1996, sufficiently ahead of the fashion to give Mr Scott and his team real credibility. Another is the shift in its investment portfolio.

As the general insurer reduces its exposure to long-dated bonds, GA is also trimming its shares portfolio. In the first three months of the year, equity holdings fell from £2.24 billion to £2.08 billion, much of it reinvested in short-dated bonds, effectively cash. Since 1995, the equity component of its investment portfolio has fallen from 33 to 24 per cent.

The aim is to dispel its image of a company that takes risk on its customers, then magnifies that risk in the markets. In spite of the danger of missing out on the seemingly inexhaustible UK and US bull run, the market has obliged by rerating the stock. GA's premium to asset value now stands at about 33 per cent, well at the top of a buoyant sector.

There are still good things to come from Mr Scott and yesterday's first-quarter profits were nice, but it would be better to buy when the premium is about half this value. At present it is all in the price.

Danka

TRY as it may, Danka is having little success in persuading the City that this deal-driven machine can deliver results.

After doubling in size by swallowing the best part of Kodak's photocopying business and beating market expectations with a solid set of results, the shares still languish some 33 per cent below last year's peak. The City has failed to grasp the enormity of the Kodak factor. It brings $1.6 billion sales on 2.9 per cent margins, while Danka has proved itself adept at squeezing a 9 per cent return from its other acquisitions.

If it succeeds in whipping Kodak into shape — and yesterday's results gave no indication it will not, Danka should deliver earnings of 40p next year and 70p in 1999. That prices the shares at a 30 per cent discount to the market.

Danka has delivered a few frights in the past, but it has a reasonable chance of delivering a good return from the Kodak deal. Moreover, it shows a good deal of foresight. Over 60 per cent of its sales come from servicing and supplying machines it has sold — a lock-in market guaranteeing business for some time to come. If it accomplishes anything approaching its target, the shares look cheap.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

May	992 SLR	Jul	1042-1041
Jul	1000-999	Sep	1055 SLR
Sep	1017 BID	Dec	1063 SLR
Dec	1011-1010	Mar	1076-1073
Mar	1020-1019		
May	1030-1024		Volume: 4545

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

May	1767-1750	Jan	1817-1803
Jul	1820-1816	Mar	1790 SLR
Sep	1839-1831	May	1799-1770
Nov	1849-1832		Volume: 6104

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Mar	304.4-03.5
Spot: 321.5		May	304.2-02.0
Aug	317.0-17.5	Aug	304.3-01.0
Oct	307.1-06.8	Oct	296.5-40.0
Dec	304.0-04.2		Volume: 1444

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on May 12

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	110.27	145.37	92.67
(+/-)	+0.15	+0.53	+2.26
Eng/Wales	110.21	145.85	92.57
(+/-)	-0.06	+5.96	+2.29
(%)	+92.0	+32.0	+104.0
Scotland	111.92	129.14	93.79
(+/-)	+4.38	+8.32	+2.02
(%)	-4.0	+4.0	+17.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	19.50	n/c
Brent 15 day (Jun)	19.65	+0.65
Brent 15 day (Jul)	19.50	+0.10
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	21.30	-0.05
W Texas Intermediate (Jul)	21.25	+0.05

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	202 (+1)	203 (+1)
Gasoil EEC	177 (+4)	179 (+5)
3.5 Fuel Oil	80 (+1)	82 (n/c)
Naphtha	176 (n/c)	178 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Jun	173.25 SLR	Sep	176.50-77.00
Jul	174.00-74.25	Oct	178.50-78.75
Aug	175.50-75.75		Vol: 11977

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jun	19.67 SLR	Sep	19.40 BID
Jul	19.50-19.52	Oct	19.35 BID
Aug	19.46 SLR		Vol: 33254

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
May	90.50	May	90.00
Jul	92.50	Sep	91.50
Sep	93.40	Nov	92.50
Nov	95.40	Jan	94.50
Jan	97.40	Mar	96.50
Volume: 725		Volume: 6	

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Jun	65.0	53.0
Nov		59.5
Mar		107.0
		Volume: 63

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)
Jun 71.50-72.00

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
May 97	1235	1225	1230
Jun 97	1300	1280	1280
Jul 97	1195	1164	1165
Oct 97	1330	1320	1330
Vol: 65 lots		Open interest: 2733	

Index 1241 +2

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day) Rudolf Wolff

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2472.0-2472.5	2411.0-2412.0	122145
Lead ($/tonne)	612.0-613.0	622.0-624.00	17377
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1304.0-1305.0	1325.5-1326.0	59275
Tin ($/tonne)	5690.0-5695.0	5736.0-5737.0	14548
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1633.5-1634.0	1661.0-1661.5	166225
Nickel ($/tonne)	7650.0-7655.0	7760.0-7765.0	39504

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series		Calls Jul	Oct	Jan	Puts Jul	Oct	Jan
Alld Dom	460	16	26	35	22	25	30
(*467)	500	6	14	20	50	52	62
ASDA	110	12	14	16	1	4	5
(*119)	120	5	8	10	5	5	9
Boots	700	45	55	65	11	18	25
(*735)	750	15	20	31	37	41	49
Br Airways	700	30	46	57	22	32	36
(*711)	750	10	24	35	55	61	65
BP	700	57	71	81	7	17	22
(*743)	750	24	41	52	26	39	43
Br Steel	140	11	12	14	5	8	10
(*147)	160	2	5	6	20	21	23
C & W	500	29	42	54	17	26	35
(*513)	550	10	21	33	49	55	61
CU	700	70	89	100	14	35	44
(*749)	750	39	64	81	34	59	67
ICI	750	56	68	83	9	21	25
(*796)	800	25	39	55	26	44	47
Land Sec	550	35	48	60	19	26	35
(*574)	600	10	24	36	49	55	60
M & S	500	25	37	44	11	17	22
(*514)	550	5	13	21	43	46	49
Nat West	750	66	79	96	10	26	33
(*796)	800	35	50	68	30	51	56
Safeway plc	330	11	18	25	10	21	20
(*330)	360	3	8	14	41	43	46
Sainsbury	340	19	27	35	7	12	16
(*377)	380	6	14	21	25	27	32
Shell	1100	70	106	119	10	26	37
(*1157)	1150	46	73	88	25	46	56
SmKl Bch	1050	57	84	112	15	49	60
(*1065)	1100	33	63	90	64	74	84
Storehse	300	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trafalgar	50	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	60	—	—	—	—	—	—
Zeneca	1900	132	172	214	40	70	85
(*1969)	2000	80	119	167	84	116	131
Series		Jul	Oct	Jan	Jul	Oct	Jan
BAT Ind	500	55	65	77	9	22	29
(*541)	550	25	37	52	30	45	52
Vodafone	280	14	24	30	12	17	21
(*282)	300	6	15	21	24	29	32
Series		May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Grnd Met	550	26	42	52	4	19	22
(*574)	600	2	17	27	29	44	48
Ladbroke	240	14	23	29	1	6	9
(*254)	260	2	12	18	7	14	18
Utd Bisc	220	4	15	19	2	9	14
(*222)	240	0	8	10	18	21	25

Series		Calls Jul	Oct	Jan	Puts Jul	Oct	Jan
BAA	500	37	46	54	8	12	17
(*529)	550	10	20	29	33	47	42
Thames W	650	51	58	65	19	26	35
(*690)	700	22	33	41	40	53	61
Series		May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
BTR	200	17	22	26	1	6	10
(*213)	220	1	11	16	9	14	20
Br Aero	1250	33	81	104	6	32	49
(*1275)	1300	8	54	76	31	56	71
Br Telcm	420	33	43	47	0	12	17
(*452)	460	3	19	24	10	32	36
Cadbury	550	21	39	44	2	14	21
(*567)	600	1	16	24	33	40	49
Guinness	550	35	55	64	0	12	15
(*584)	600	4	29	39	18	34	37
GEC	360	11	21	27	1	14	16
(*369)	390	0	7	14	21	33	36
Hanson	300	30	39	44	0	5	10
(*329)	330	4	20	27	6	16	22
LASMO	240	5	15	22	4	12	18
(*241)	260	0	9	15	19	25	26
LucasVarity	180	14	22	25	0	3	6
(*192)	200	3	11	14	4	12	15
Pilkngtn	110	7	12	—	0	5	—
(*115)	120	2	7	—	5	11	—
Prudential	600	23	49	62	3	30	30
(*606)	700	2	25	35	32	46	56
Redland	330	6	21	31	5	16	22
(*330)	360	0	9	18	27	34	30
R-Royce	240	7	19	24	2	10	14
(*245)	260	1	10	15	15	21	24
Tesco	360	20	32	39	1	7	12
(*379)	390	2	15	22	13	20	26
Williams	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	360	—	—	—	—	—	—

FT-SE INDEX (*4691)

	4550	4600	4650	4700	4750	4800
Calls						
May	145	97	52	19	4	1
Jun	184	146	110	79	53	32
Jul	220	181	147	113	97	64
Aug	227	191	166	129	106	92
Dec	—	294	—	220	—	157
Puts						
May	1	2	9	23	65	115
Jun	29	39	55	75	107	132
Jul	39	60	77	98	119	147
Aug	61	79	93	113	130	168
Dec	—	128	—	163	—	211

Series		Calls Jul	Oct	Jan	Puts Jul	Oct	Jan
Abey Nat	900	76	89	110	20	34	44
(*957)	950	42	61	84	39	51	67
Amstrad	140	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	160	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barclays	1250	60	89	121	42	72	75
(*1282)	1300	34	62	96	73	100	112
Natl Pwr	550	25	32	47	15	25	44
(*551)	600	7	14	25	64	73	77
Series		Jul	Oct	Jan	Jul	Oct	Jan
Glaxo Well	1200	76	101	127	25	45	57
(*1244)	1250	51	75	102	46	68	79
HSBC	1800	96	137	187	56	93	117
(*1820)	1900	54	91	139	111	151	169
Reuter	700	35	52	72	26	35	45
(*701)	750	14	30	46	56	67	75
Royal & Sun	500	31	43	54	12	22	29
(*513)	550	10	21	33	45	55	61
Series		May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Blue Cir	420	8	26	34	4	16	23
(*425)	460	0	10	17	36	41	45
Series		May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Kingfshr	700	16	41	55	5	21	31
(*711)	750	1	20	32	39	50	57
Series		Jan			Jan		
Br Gas	240	11	—	—	2	—	—
(*246)	260	3	—	—	16	—	—
Series		Jun	Sep	Dec	Jun	Sep	Dec
Dixons	500	33	45	59	5	22	25
(*524)	550	7	21	33	32	46	51
EMI Group	1250	67	96	124	15	47	61
(*1290)	1300	34	71	101	39	72	85
Tarmac	120	9	14	16	1	5	7
(*125)	130	3	9	10	6	9	12
Hillsdwn	160	16	22	—	2	3	—
(*177)	180	4	9	—	6	8	—
Lonrho	130	12	14	17	1	4	6
(*138)	140	4	9	12	3	9	10
Sears	90	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	100	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorn EMI	1500	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	1600	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tomkins	260	14	25	27	2	9	11
(*275)	280	7	13	17	6	15	21
Lloyds TSB	600	37	42	52	12	25	29
(*614)	650	9	24	29	42	55	62
Sour Pwr	360	32	40	45	3	11	14
(*389)	390	12	22	26	17	25	29
Unilever	1700	42	96	133	29	52	61
(*1703)	1800	6	43	65	98	111	127

May 13, 1997 Tot: 42968 Call: 41313 Put: 2945 FTSE Call: 2636 Put: 7940
*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Jun 97	114-13	114-23	114-05	114-07	110808
Previous open interest: 231052	Sep 97	114-17	114-29	114-17	114-17	1366
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Jun 97	102.20	102.36	102.09	102.12	162103
Previous open interest: 290940	Sep 97	101.20	101.36	101.14	101.14	3566
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Jun 97	129.75	129.93	129.53	129.56	55139
Previous open interest: 120811	Sep 97	130.05	130.15	129.95	129.95	711
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Jun 97	124.15	124.21	124.06	124.12	9970
	Sep 97	122.75	122.79	122.69	122.72	3164
Three Mth Sterling	Jun 97	93.48	93.51	93.44	93.46	22147
	Sep 97	93.27	93.30	93.19	93.22	32202
Previous open interest: 511190	Dec 97	93.15	93.17	93.03	93.03	41764
Three Mth Euromark	Jun 97	96.79	96.81	96.79	96.80	11596
Previous open interest: 1412752	Sep 97	96.76	96.76	96.75	96.75	13258
Three Mth Eurolira	Jun 97	93.24	93.26	93.21	93.22	12874
Previous open interest: 314607	Sep 97	93.55	93.57	93.52	93.54	10394
Three Mth Euroyen	Sep 97				99.14	0
	Dec 97				98.94	0
Three Mth Euroswiss	Jun 97	98.24	98.25	98.18	98.18	5171
Previous open interest: 121811	Sep 97	98.23	98.24	98.17	98.18	9918
Three Mth ECU	Jun 97	95.85	95.86	95.84	95.85	744
Previous open interest: 32534	Sep 97	95.86	95.86	95.85	95.85	428
FTSE 100	Jun 97	4692.0	4735.0	4684.0	4705.0	21833
Previous open interest: 72853	Sep 97	4732.0	4752.0	4721.0	4736.5	158

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6¼ Finance Hse 6¾
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 8 Low 6¼ Week fixed: 6⅛
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5[illegible]; 3 mth 5[illegible]. Sell: 2 mth 5[illegible]; 3 mth: 5[illegible].

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Overnight: open 6[illegible], close 7					
Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	5.55	n/a	5.71	5.86	6.12
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $346.60-346.90 Close: $347.80-348.30 High: $348.90-349.40
Low: $346.40-346.90 AM: $347.30 PM: $348.90

Krugerrand: $347.00-349.00 (£212.75-214.75)

Platinum: $388.50 (£238.25) Silver: $4.86 (£2.975) Palladium: $170.00 (£104.25)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for May 13	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.0945-3.1190	3.1135-3.1167	[illegible]pr	2-2pr
Brussels	57.115-57.770	57.115-57.215	18-13pr	50-43pr
Copenhagen	10.475-10.559	10.541-10.551	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Dublin	1.0698-1.0775	1.0747-1.0768	4pr	par 13-8ds
Frankfurt	2.7513-2.7722	2.7693-2.7710	[illegible]pr	2-2pr
Lisbon	278.48-278.81	278.49-278.73	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Madrid	232.55-234.24	233.94-234.24	21-12pr	72-55pr
Milan	2724.1-2741.9	2737.9-2741.9	10-7ds	24-40ds
Montreal	2.2465-2.2680	2.2620-2.2650	0.65-0.60pr	1.19-1.13pr
New York	1.6190-1.6320	1.6314-1.6324	0.095-0.075pr	0.258-0.227pr
Oslo	11.449-11.517	11.449-11.464	[illegible]pr	1-[illegible]pr
Paris	9.2730-9.3420	9.3235-9.3336	2-2pr	7-7pr
Stockholm	12.437-12.551	12.514-12.524	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Tokyo	192.95-194.61	194.05-194.35	1-[illegible]pr	2-2pr
Vienna	19.354-19.514	19.483-19.504	[illegible]pr	1-1pr
Zurich	2.3203-2.3406	2.3430-2.3461	1-[illegible]pr	2-2pr

Source: Extel
Premium = pr. Discount = ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2832-1.2840
Austria	11.94-11.95
Belgium (Com)	35.01-35.04
Canada	1.3873-1.3878
Denmark	6.4625-6.4645
France	5.7180-5.7185
Germany	1.6968-1.6978
Hong Kong	7.7395-7.7405
Ireland	1.5166-1.5186
Italy	1677.10-1678.60
Japan	119.06-119.16
Malaysia	2.5165-2.5175
Netherlands	1.9090-1.9095
Norway	7.0316-7.0366
Portugal	170.70-170.75
Singapore	1.4358-1.4368
Spain	143.33-143.38
Sweden	7.6628-7.6678
Switzerland	1.4326-1.4336

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6302-1.6329
Australia dollar	2.0943-2.0966
Bahrain dinar	0.6055-0.6175
Brazil real*	1.7395-1.7399
China yuan	13.297-13.597
Cyprus pound	0.8160-0.8260
Finland markka	8.2825-8.3985
Greece drachma	437.5-444.5
Hong Kong dollar	12.6316-12.6387
India rupee	57.70-58.66
Indonesia rupiah	3905.0-3973.6
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4865-0.4965
Malaysia ringgit	4.1072-4.1106
New Zealand dollar	2.3467-2.3498
Pakistan rupee	64.90 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8480-5.9690
Singapore dollar	2.3434-2.3464
S Africa rand (com)	7.1910-7.2930
U A E dirham	5.8975-6.0215

Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	1,800	Land Secs	5,700
ASDA Gp	14,400	Legal & Gn	11,500
Abbey Ntl	5,000	Lloyds TSB	9,900
Allied Dom	6,900	LucasVarity	10,600
AB Foods	180	Marks Spr	3,400
BAA	1,400	Mercury Asset	847
BAT Inds	8,600	NatWst Bk	7,300
BG	8,600	Nat Grid	2,000
BOC	2,100	Nat Power	4,400
BP	7,300	Next	636
BSkyB	1,800	Orange	2,700
BTR	39,400	P & O	1,500
BT	18,000	Pearson	2,600
Bk of Scot	5,700	PowerGen	2,000
Barclays	4,700	Prudential	4,800
Bass	1,600	RMC	300
Blue Circle	1,700	RTZ	2,500
Boots	1,500	Railtrack	1,700
BAe	1,600	Rank Group	3,600
BA	2,800	Reckitt Col	5,300
British Land	2,900	Reed Intl	3,200
Brit Steel	7,500	Rentokil Inl	4,100
Burmah Cstl	2,000	Reuters	2,400
Burton	708	Rolls Royce	3,100
Cable Wire	4,900	Royal & Sun	8,100
Cadbury	6,000	Royal Bk Sct	2,700
Carlton Cms	771	Safeway	8,100
Centrica	10,500	Sainsbury	5,600
Cm Union	5,000	Schroders	83
Dixons	1,500	Scot & New	2,200
EMI	889	Scot Power	2,600
Energy Gp	2,500	Svrn Trent	1,200
Enterpr Oil	2,100	Shell Trans	7,500
GKN	324	Siebe	3,500
GRE	8,700	SmKl Bch	8,300
GUS	673	Smith Nph	1,300
Gen Acc	1,600	Smiths Inds	590
Gen Elec	5,900	Std Chartd	3,600
Glaxo Well	8,200	TI Gp	1,400
Granada	4,000	Tate & Lyle	2,900
Grand Met	12,600	Tesco	4,800
Guinness	16,000	Thames W	1,300
HSBC	5,400	Tomkins	5,200
Hanson	2,400	Unilever	3,500
Hays	1,200	Utd Utilities	1,900
ICI	7,600	Utd News	1,000
Imp Tob	1,500	Vodafone	7,500
Kingfisher	1,500	Whitbread	1,900
LASMO	3,200	Wolseley	1,500
Ladbroke	5,300	Zeneca	1,300

STREET

	May 13 midday	May 12 close
AMP Inc	39	39
AMR Corp	94	95
AT & T	32	33
Abbott Labs	63	63
Advanced Micro	42	43
Aetna Life	98	99
Ahmanson (HF)	39	40
Air Prod & Chem	74	74
AirTouch Comms	26	26
Albertson's	32	32
Alcan Aluminum	35	35
Allied Signal	73	74
Alum Co of Am	73	72
Amerada Hess	52	53
Amer Brands	53	53
Amer El Power	40	41
Amer Express	68	69
Amer Genl Corp	44	44
Amer Home Pr	72	71
Amer Intl	132	133
Amer Stores	45	46
Amer Standard	47	42
Ameritech	65	64
Amgen	60	60
Amoco	86	87
Andrew Corp	26	26
Anheuser-Busch	43	43
Apple Computer	17	17
Archer Daniels	18	18
Armco	3	3
Armstrng Wrld	67	67
Asarco	30	30
Atl Richfield	140	148
Auto Data Pro	48	48
Avery Dennison	38	39
Avon Products	61	62
Baker Hughes	38	38
Baltim Gas & El	26	26
Banc One	42	42
BankAmerica	116	118
Bank of NY	41	41
Bankers Tr NY	81	81
Barnett Banks	50	50
Bausch & Lomb	40	41
Baxter Intl	48	48
Becton Dickinsn	48	48
Bell Atlantic	68	69
Bell Industries	17	16
BellSouth	44	45
Black & Decker	34	34
Block (H&R)	32	32
Boeing	100	99
Boise Cascade	35	35
Boston Scien	59	58
Bristol Myrs Sq	68	68
Browning Ferris	31	32
Brunswick	30	30
Burlington Nthn	80	80
CMS Energy Corp	33	33
CNA Financial	101	101
CPC Intl	86	86
CSX	48	49
Campbell Soup	49	50
Can Pacific	26	26
Carolina Pwr	34	34
Case Corp	56	55
Caterpillar	95	96
Central & SW	21	21
Champion Intl	47	48
Chase Manhat	97	99
Chevron Corp	71	73
Chrysler	31	31
Chubb Corp	59	59
Cigna Corp	173	171
Citicorp	118	119
Clorox	129	126
Coastal Corp	49	49
Coca Cola	65	66
Coca Cola Ent	20	59
Colgate-Palm	113	113
Columbia Gas	64	65
ColumbiaHCA	37	37
Compaq Comp	96	96
Comp Ass Intl	53	54
Conagra	59	60
Conrail	114	114
Cons Edison	28	28
Cons Nat Gas	52	52
Cooper Inds	49	50
CoreStates	52	53
Corning Inc	49	49
Crown Cork	56	56
Dana Corp	32	33
Dayton Hudson	47	47
Deere	50	49
Delta Air Lines	94	95
Deluxe Corp	32	32
Digital Equip	39	39
Dillard Dept St	31	31
Disney (Walt)	83	84
Dominion Res	35	35
Donelley (RR)	34	35
Dover Corp	54	55
Dow Chemical	87	88
Dow Jones	39	39
Dresser	34	32
Duke Power	45	46
Dun & Brdstreet	25	26
Du Pont	108	110
Eastman Chem	53	53

	May 13 midday	May 12 close
Eastman Kodak	82	82
Exxon Corp	78	79
Edison Intl	22	22
Elect Data Sys	37	37
Emerson Elec	53	52
Engelhard Corp	20	20
Enron Corp	41	41
Entergy	25	25
Ethyl Corp	9	9
Exxon	59	59
FMC Corp	69	70
FPL Group	45	46
Federal Express	54	54
First Bk Sys	80	80
Fleet Finl Grp	63	64
Fluor Corp	49	50
Ford Motor	36	37
GTE Corp	42	43
Gannett	92	92
Gap Inc Del	33	33
Gencorp	19	19
Gen Dynamics	73	73
Gen Electric	60	60
Gen Mills	63	64
Gen Motors	56	57
Gen Reinsurance	172	172
Gen Signal	40	40
Genuine Parts	33	33
Georgia Pac	80	80
Gillette	88	89
Glaxo Welc ADR	40	39
Goodrich (BF)	42	41
Goodyear Tire	54	54
Grt Atl Pac Tea	26	26
Great Wstn Fin	44	44
Halliburton	78	78
Harcourt General	46	47
Heinz (HJ)	42	42
Hercules	43	44
Hershey Foods	57	58
Hewlett Packard	57	56
Hilton Hotels	28	29
Home Depot	57	58
Homestake Mng	14	14
Honeywell	74	74
Household Intl	90	90
Houston Inds	22	22
Humana	21	21
ITT Corp	59	59
Ikon Office	28	28
Illinois Tool	96	96
Illinova	22	23
INCO	33	33
Ingersoll Rand	51	52
Inland Steel	26	25
Intel Corp	157	159
IBM	174	171
Intl Flav & Fr	43	44
Intl Paper	45	45
James River Va	32	33
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	61	61
Kellogg	71	72
Kerr-McGee	63	64
Kimberly-Clark	53	54
Kmart	13	13
Knight-Ridder	42	42
Lilly (Eli)	92	93
Limited Inc	18	18
Lincoln Nat	58	59
Litton	44	45
Liz Claiborne	45	44
Lockheed Martin	91	92
Louisiana Pac	18	18
MCI Comm	38	38
Manpower Inc	42	42
Marriott Int	57	56
Marsh & McLnn	123	124
Masco Corp	38	39
May Dept St	47	47
Maytag Corp	24	24
McDonalds	52	53
McDonnell D	59	58
McGraw Hill	53	55
Mead Corp	58	58
Medtronic	68	68
Mellon Bk	85	85
Merck Inc	93	92
Merrill Lynch	59	59
Microsoft	118	118
Minnesota Mine	91	92
Mobil Corp	134	135
Monsanto	44	44
Morgan (JP)	104	102
Motorola Inc	63	65
Natl Semi	28	28
Natl Service Ind	43	44
Navistar Int	12	12
NY Times A	44	44
Newmont Mng	39	39
Niag Mohawk	8	8
Nike B	56	56
NL Industries	12	13
Noram Energy	15	15
Nordstrom	44	42
Norfolk Sthrn	92	93
Nthn State Pwr	46	46
Norwest Corp	53	53
Nynex Corp	53	52
Occidental Pet	23	23
Ohio Edison	20	20

	May 13 midday	May 12 close
Oracle	44	43
Oryx Energy Co	22	22
Owens Corning	42	42
PPG Industries	58	57
PMI Group	54	54
PNC Bank	41	42
PP&L Res	20	20
Paccar Inc	85	83
Pacificorp	20	20
Pac Enterprises	32	33
Pall Corp	23	23
Parker Hannifin	50	51
Peco Energy	19	19
Penney (JC)	49	49
Pennzoil	54	55
Pepsico	36	36
Pfizer	101	101
Pharm & Upjhn	32	33
Phelps Dodge	81	81
Philip Morris	42	42
Phillips Pet	41	42
Pitney Bowes	67	67
Polaroid	49	50
Procter & Gmbl	132	139
Providian	56	56
Pub Serv E & G	24	24
Quaker Oats	40	40
Ralston Purina	84	84
Raychem Corp	69	69
Raytheon	47	47
Reebok Intl	38	38
Reynolds Metals	67	68
Rockwell Intl	68	68
Rohm & Haas	82	83
Royal Dutch	190	190
Rubbermaid	25	25
SBC Comms	56	57
Safeco Corp	41	41
St Paul's Cos	73	74
Salomon Inc	53	53
Sara Lee Corp	42	42
Schering Plough	85	86
Schlumberger	118	120
Seagram	38	38
Sears Roebuck	49	49
Shell Trans	113	112
Sherwin Wlms	31	31
Skyline Corp	23	23
Snap-On-Tools	39	39
Southern Co	21	21
Sprint Corp	47	47
Stanley Works	39	39
Sun Company	29	29
Sun Microsys	30	30
Suntrust	53	53
Supervalu	31	31
Sysco Corp	34	34
TRW Inc	54	54
TCC Inds	2	2
TIG Hldgs	28	28
Tandem Comp	14	14
Tandy Corp	53	53
Temple Inland	58	58
Tenet Healthcare	28	28
Tenneco	43	43
Texaco	111	112
Texas Inst	90	92
Texas Utilities	36	36
Textron	113	114
Thermo Elect	33	33
Time Warner	44	45
Times-Mirror A	56	56
Timken	62	63
Torchmark	64	66
Toys R Us	28	28
Transamerica	85	84
Travelers	55	55
Tribune	43	43
Tyco Intl	63	63
UST Inc	27	27
UAL	73	73
US Inds	30	30
US West Comm	34	35
US West Media	17	17
USAirways Group	34	34
USX Marathon	28	28
Unicom	21	22
Unilever NY	201	204
Union Camp	51	51
Union Carbide	48	49
Union Pacific	67	66
Unisys Corp	6	6
USF&G Corp	20	20
US Life	48	48
United Tech	78	78
Unocal Corp	43	43
VF Corp	75	75
WMX Tech	31	31
Wal-Mart Stores	29	29
Warner-Lambert	100	101
Wells Fargo	279	282
Westinghouse El	16	16
Weyerhaeuser	46	46
Whirlpool	48	48
Whitman	24	24
Winn Dixie	36	37
Woolworth	21	21
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	58	58
Xerox	63	64
Zenith Elect	11	11

More than one way to skin a fat cat

ANTHONY HARRIS

We have not long to wait, we are told, for the most radical Budget for 50 years. It is billed to tackle work incentives, youth unemployment, short-termism, inequality and the fiscal deficit, to name but a few, and all without raising personal tax rates. Whatever history may have to say about Chancellor Brown, he will hardly be accused of over-modest ambitions (although he must try to break his habit of talking accusing of "the Government" as if he was not now part of it). On the contrary, fellow Cabinet members may be wondering if there is any room left for them to be radical. Now this would be over-modest.

Consider, for example, the fat cats, and how they make themselves still richer. Do you imagine that they are feeling a little queasy? I doubt it. Cat food is provided in many different ways: long contracts with golden handshakes for failures; heads-I-win, tails-you-lose performance bonuses, huge fees for solving non-problems in agreed mergers; the results of those mergers — bigger salaries, less comeption, and so more time for golf; share buy-ins which trigger return-on-equity rewards . . .

There is no need to nauseate you with a longer list. The real point should already be clear: these ills have little to do with tax regimes, and everything to do with boardroom capitalism as it is now practised. The theory sound great: shareholder control and shareholder value. The truth, as the City radicals keep reminding us (the Government should listen to Alastair Ross-Goobey on boardroom abuses, not sack him for his politics) is that the value is all bread and circuses, and the control is a sham. Thanks partly to spineless insitutions, and partly to the idiocies of insider dealing laws, we see the shareholder as mushroom: kept in the dark, and covered with . . . you know the rest. Not a Treasury matter; Trade and Industry, rather.

Oh no! Not corporate governance again? These two words are the most powerful soporific since Temazepam; but the subject ought to be exciting, and I have a modest proposal. Establish a new class of insider shareholder, locked in but properly informed, and sitting, angrily if need be, on the Board. How? Here is how it might work.

First, the insider dealing laws would have to be changed to allow full information to a class of trusts as investment vehicles for pension funds and others interested in the long haul.

These trusts would be forbidden to trade in the shares they hold without giving, say, 30 days' notice of their intentions. (This would no doubt have to be cleared through Brussels, so I cannot pretend that this is a short-term cure for short-termism).

In return for illiquidity, the trusts would receive full management accounts. They would no doubt insist on board seats (especially on the remuneration committee). In the long run, this might be something like shareholder control.

The standard objection to any proposal for increased institutional control of the board is that the institutions have nobody fit to exercise it. Lord knows, old boy, it's hard enough to find half-way decent outside directors as it is. This objection, though, seems to ignore market forces.

It might be hard at first; but if long-term trusts controlled big blocks of shares, things would soon change. Big institutions which relied on their nominees to look after their solid long-term interests would surely find ways to recruit suitable people for the job.

But can we get there from here, as the Irishman said? Not, surely, if the only temptation is the promise of more information. This, though, is where Gordon Brown might get in on the act after all.

He talks of tax incentives for long-term investment, and there are rumours of attacks on existing institutional tax privileges. So it would be logical to provide tax loopholes for institutions which would be long-term by legal definition.

A stakeholder's Budget, then? Not this time, I must admit. But not even Gordon Brown can hope to build the future in one day.

What industry can expect from the Queen's Speech

Philip Bassett outlines the measures that could change the business landscape

As she peers through her spectacles to read her first Queen's Speech under a Labour Government since 1978, Her Majesty will today announce a series of measures destined to change radically the business environment.

Apart from the well-flagged windfall tax and minimum wage, the speech will promise reforms ranging from a shake-up of competition policy to a reinvigorated regional development plan.

The speech will include provision for a Finance Bill, which will set in place the changes that Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, will lay out in his Budget. But the legislative programme includes a number of measures that will be of vital interest to industry and services in the UK.

☐ **Windfall tax.** Central to the Chancellor's first Budget will be Labour's long-promised tax on the "excessive" profits of the privatised utilities, raising at least £3 billion to fund the Government's employment programme. Though it will be for the Budget itself to put the details of the tax into place, a key element for business of the legislative programme will be the new law that will give legal force to the tax.

Heads of the privatised utilities have mounted a rearguard campaign to try to deflect the tax from their businesses. But Mr Brown and his Treasury team have been steadfast in refusing their lobbying, and just as the City has now largely discounted the effect of the tax on the utilities' performance, so too have the utilities themselves. BT, the electricity, gas and water companies, BAA and others have largely realised that the tax is on the way.

☐ **Welfare to work.** The Government will use the windfall tax to fund its job programmes for the young and long-term unemployed. The Queen's Speech will signal the new measures, under which companies taking on one of the 250,000 young people at which the youth programme is aimed will be given a tax rebate of £60 a week, per person, for six months. Ministers recognise that companies may require an even greater subsidy to offer jobs to the long-term unemployed, who will require extensive retraining. So firms taking on people who have been unemployed for more than two years will be able to obtain tax rebates of £75 a week, per person.

The days of the apprentice may have gone, but ministers realise firms need subsidies to retrain the unemployed

☐ **Minimum wage.** A minimum wage will be foreshadowed in today's speech with the announcement of a Low Pay Bill. Legislation is necessary to provide for a national floor under wages, and to put on a statutory footing the planned Low Pay Commission, likely to be with a membership of about 15, which will recommend to the Government a specific level for the minimum wage.

Business will try to keep its recommendation down to an hourly rate of between £3 and £3.50. Union leaders want it to be set much higher. Companies in sectors such as textiles, retailing and cleaning, traditional areas of lower pay, would be most affected by a minimum wage.

☐ **Monetary policy.** Legislation is needed to enact the changes to the operation of monetary policy announced by the Chancellor last week in his first big economic initiative. The Bill will give power to set interest rates to a new monetary policy committee to be formed by the Bank.

☐ **Construction.** The speech will specify legislation to free money held by local authorities from the sale of council houses to fund a £6 billion public housebuilding programme. Construction companies are likely to benefit from the programme. Ministers also believe that the programme will have a marked effect on unemployment.

☐ **Small business.** Today's speech will herald a Bill to help small firms by providing a statutory right to charge interest on late payments. Small firms are divided on the issue of whether a statutory right will be of real practical help; many fear invoking it will simply alienate the usually larger firms that owe them money. Ministers are convinced that the measure is necessary, with an estimated £2 billion cost arising to small business from late payment of debt. Large companies and government departments will be obliged to show in their annual reports the proportion of accounts that are paid late. After a prescribed period of about six weeks, small firms will be able to press companies for payment.

Camelot could lose the right to run the lottery

☐ **Competition.** The Government intends to tighten current laws regulating cartels and price-fixing agreements, giving companies harmed by anti-competitive practices enhanced legal protection, backed by "stringent" financial penalties. The Competition Bill is also likely to shift the onus of proof in hostile takeovers, so that companies seeking control would be required to demonstrate that it would be in the public interest for the bid to succeed.

☐ **Lottery.** There is to be a reshaping of the National Lottery, with money from its midweek draw redirected to health and education. Labour leaders are committed to ensuring the lottery is run by a non-profit making company, and strong indications are that Camelot, the current licence-holder, will lose the right to run it when its licence expires.

☐ **Utilities.** The Queen's Speech will include plans for legislation to restructure the utilities' regulatory frameworks. Specifically, the legislation giving power to the regulators will be changed to give equal or preferred priority in terms of the regulators' objectives to consumers, as opposed to simply the promotion of competition. The Government plans to provide for non-executive directors for the regulators, to give their decisions a broader base.

☐ **Social chapter.** Legislative change is needed to meet the Government's declared intention to end the previous administration's opt-out from the European Union social protocol to the Maastricht treaty setting minimum employment standards at work. But the Government may add new provisions to apply the social chapter to Britain to a Bill to enact the outcome of the Intergovernmental Conference on the future of the EU.

☐ **Regions.** The speech will include provision for legislation setting up a new national network of regional development agencies, along the lines of those that have operated successfully in Scotland and the North East.

☐ **Education and skills.** Improving educational standards has been a central economic objective for British business. Companies are tired of having to act as remedial educators, teaching basic skills of reading and writing to young people at work. A Bill improving educational standards will be welcomed by business.

☐ **Devolution.** The Government's proposals to reform Britain's constitution may not seem on the surface to be of central concern to business. But if people in Scotland and Wales vote for their devolved representational arrangements, business may have new legislative arrangements to deal with in those parts of the UK — and that will be of close interest to industry and services, especially in Scotland, where the planned Scottish Parliament will have tax-raising powers.

☐ **Health.** Companies heavily involved in the health sector will be closely interested in the Government's proposals, to be contained in a Health Bill in the speech today, to end the internal market in the National Health Service.

Big business pitches in for $350m Dodgers sale

Eric Reguly on a baseball bid unlikely to become a home run

Mention the O'Malley family and half the population of Brooklyn will start cursing. It was the O'Malleys who ripped the very heart and soul out of Brooklyn in 1957 when they moved the beloved — indeed worshipped — Brooklyn Dodgers from Ebbets Field to Los Angeles.

Forty years on the wounds have yet to heal. Sports-mad Brooklyn is still without their boys of summer. "There are people who still have pieces of the bleachers of Ebbets Field when they tore it down," said an American baseball fan. "It was a dark day for Brooklyn."

To no one's surprise, there were few tears shed in Brooklyn in January when the O'Malleys announced their intention to sell the Los Angeles Dodgers. Some of the oldtimers no doubt hoped the new owners would reconstruct Ebbets Field and move the Dodgers back, but most of the borough was just happy to see them give up the team.

It does not appear likely that the Dodgers are coming home. The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*, has emerged as the front-runner for the Dodgers and there are sound business reasons to leave the team where it is. The price tag, thought to be a record-breaking $350 million, includes Dodger Stadium and its 300-acre site. The O'Malleys had hoped to build a new National Football League stadium on the site, but their plans were rebuffed by the City. Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of News Corp, may have better luck.

Nomo: striking pose

The Dodgers have also become as popular with Angelinos as they were with Brooklyners. Since 1957 the team has won the National League crown nine times and the World Series — the grand prix of baseball — five times. The Dodgers regularly draw two million to three million spectators a season and the team has come to reflect the multiracial flavour of Southern California. Hideo Nomo, one of its squad, is the only Japanese pitcher in the league. A South Korean and several Latin Americans are on the roster.

If its bid succeeds, News Corp will own a piece of American history. The Dodgers was the team that changed the face of baseball. The event happened on April 15, 1947 when Jackie Robinson, a 28-year-old black man, the son a sharecropper and grandson of a slave, trotted onto the diamond at Ebbets Field to play for the Dodgers. He was the first African American in the big leagues.

Robinson was warned that he would face abuse, not just from intolerant fans, but fellow players. In the first couple of months he was hit by pitches six times — a fast ball can travel at 100 miles an hour — and slammed with the spiked shoes of base runners. At one point, it seemed that the rival St Louis Cardinals would refuse to play the Dodgers if Robinson was part of the line-up. Robinson showed grace throughout and never once retaliated.

It helped that he was a superb athlete. His batting was second to none and he was voted the league's most valuable player. In his ten years with the Dodgers, the team won six National League pennants, and in 1955 they won the World Series (the World Series pits the top team in the National League against the top team in the American League).

Baseball has become big business since Robinson's day. The teams, driven by the value of their broadcasting rights, have soared in value. The expected $350 million price for the Dodgers is double the previous mark of $172 million paid for the Baltimore Orioles in 1993. Tempted by the fortunes to be made, families have been selling their teams to corporations. Time Warner, the world's largest media company, now owns the Atlanta Braves baseball team as well as the Atlanta Hawks basketball team. Disney/ABC has no baseball team, but owns the Mighty Ducks hockey franchise and the Anaheim Angels basketball team.

The Dodgers would be a natural fit for News Corp's Fox Sports Unit. Fox has come out of nowhere to become the sports network to watch in recent years. It has paid $1.6 billion for American football rights, $565 million for baseball rights and $150 million for hockey rights. It also has a one third interest in the Golf Channel.

Fox would not comment on the Dodgers deal, but a spokesman said: "When you're a media company it suits your purposes to own the content as well as the means of delivery."

Of course there is another advantage to owning a baseball team if you are a broadcaster — you get to keep the broadcasting rights to yourself.

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Taylor made

AMID the post-election speculation over the great and the good in the Square Mile who have been or may one day be co-opted onto various government-created committees, one name has been noticeably absent. What does the future hold for Martin Taylor? The erudite and multilingual chief executive of Barclays has achieved wondrous things with the retail and money management side of the bank, and his high-risk plans for beefing up Barclays de Zoete Wedd into a world-class investment banking operation are now well advanced. What would be more natural than for the 44-year-old former Courtaulds Textiles boss and one-time columnist for the *Financial Times* Lex column to throw some of his energy and enthusiasm behind another challenge, in a strictly part-time capacity? Just a thought.

"Hang on, we blamed the lottery last year. Let's say it's the strong pound"

A CURIOUS side-effect of the pensions review carried out by the PIA is a bull market for the humble actuary, I hear. Once derided for their conservatism, many are now finding it profitable to quit the big firms and set up as consultants, such is the workload in sorting out the value of missold pensions. Entrepreneurial actuaries? Whatever next?

Blue to green

ONE senior Tory has already made it to the green upland pastures of the City. David Howell, one-time Secretary of State for Energy and for Transport, has been a member of Swiss Bank Corporation's international board of advisers since 1988. He is now appointed an advisory director on economic and international policy matters for SBC Warburg. The distinction might seem a hair-thin one, but it has to do with a full-time salary for the soon to be Lord Howell, who has retired as MP for the constituency of Guildford after 31 years.

Howell has been on the back benches for ten years, as chairman of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee, so none of the usual worries about conflict of interest. And how much is that presumably six-figure salary? "I can't tell you." Can't? "I won't tell you. It's not being released." Whatever it is, he has done rather better than one former colleague, Ian Lang, ruled out of the running as chairman of Lloyd's of London last week. Word reaches me of the reason. When the shortlist was drawn up, the order was: No politicos. Now just imagine if that stricture was obeyed across the business world . . .

Budget cut

FRANK FIELD, the scourge of the Maxwell administrators, has had an unhappy start to his new career as Social Security Minister. The budget for a minister of state is less generous than for the chairman of the Social Services Select Committee, and he has been forced to do away with the services of his researcher, Chris Kelsey. So not so much "Welfare to Work" as "Work to Welfare".

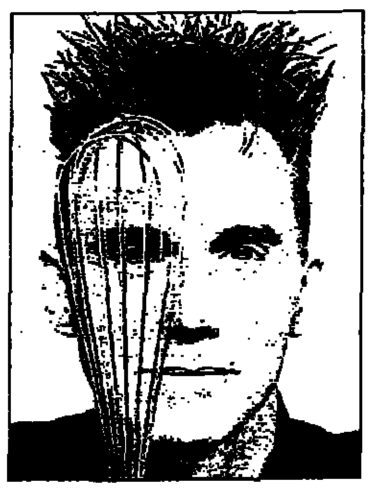
● *ON the menu at City Rhodes, the new restaurant opened by Gary Rhodes: Pigeon's trotters. What terrible chimera has been bred by TV's punk chef? It transpires that these are pigs' trotters stuffed with terrine of pigeon, which sounds like the precursor to a truly terrible afternoon. Jokes the waiter: "You should see the size of the pigeon."*

Brown tie

GORDON BROWN is causing high anxiety among the business community. Nothing about taxation, but more the new Government's informal, "Call me Tony" approach. The Chancellor is to address the CBI's annual dinner next week. While the CBI is rightly pleased at being the forum at which the new Chancellor will give his first significant public speech, it has been thrown into consternation by his stipulation that, just as he will not wear white tie at next month's Mansion House dinner, he will not wear the traditional black tie at the CBI do.

CBI leaders are wondering whether they can contact in time the 1,500 guests due at the Grosvenor House, to tell them it will be lounge suits all round. And despite their careful political neutrality in the run-up to the election, they are concerned that many members will turn up in black tie to show that they at least have yet to be won over by new Labour.

MARTIN WALLER



Gary Rhodes is causing a stir at his eatery with pigeon's trotters

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
For AB see Govett (John)				
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	768.40	817.50		2.33
General Inc	636.60	677.30		2.33
UK Growth Acc	532.20	566.20		2.29
UK Growth Inc	340.20	362.00		2.29
Higher Inc Acc	942.20	1002		3.78
Higher Inc Inc	494.30	525.90		3.78
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	222.10	233.90		5.44
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	94.61	99.92		5.44
Nth America	372.60	396.40		
Europe	415.10	441.70		0.27
3rd Excell	104.80	111.50		2.25
Brit Fndmtls Acc	131.60	140.10		4.45
Brit Fndmtls Inc	86.87	92.36		4.45
Global Opps	109.90	117.00		
Balanced Acc	69.96	74.43		2.11
Balanced Inc	64.66	68.79		2.11
Japan Acc	42.77	45.51		
Pac Basin Acc	400.00	425.00		0.75
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	137.10	145.50	+ 0.20	6.40
High Inc Equity	204.20	218.40†	+ 1.40	4.44
Worldwide Bond	270.10	286.40†	- 1.10	4.19
American Growth	452.70	462.30	- 5.10	0.35
Asian Pacific	328.50	351.30	- 3.40	0.39
Assets & Earnings	329.60	352.50†	+ 1.50	2.68
Euro Capital Acc	217.90	233.00	- 2.30	0.87
Extra Inc	44.21	47.03†	+ 0.25	7.78
General	301.30	320.50	+ 2.20	2.87
Global Opps	78.25	83.24	+ 0.32	0.48
Japan	101.10	108.10		
Managed Inc	51.09	54.35†	+ 0.24	4.14
Mastertrust	184.70	197.50	+ 0.80	1.22
US Emerging Cos	179.60	192.10	+ 0.10	
Ethical	97.77	93.37	+ 0.44	1.69
International	146.60	156.00	- 0.60	0.56
Dividend & Growth	76.10	80.96	+ 0.51	4.15
Global Gwth & Sec	76.19	81.33	+ 0.08	2.48
Latin America	85.01	90.44	+ 0.49	0.43
Capital Reserve	148.90	148.90	+ 0.10	4.69
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0141 275 8500				
ANP UK Growth	104.30	110.90	+ 1.40	2.20
Equity Income	145.40	154.60	+ 1.50	3.93
Extra Income	282.20	300.20	+ 2.80	6.10
Smaller Cos	110.70	117.70†	+ 0.20	1.51
International	125.30	133.20†	+ 0.90	1.36
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2507.00	2609.00		
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	68.54	71.11†	+ 0.61	
Emerging Mkts	78.87	82.15	- 0.22	0.04
European	167.70	174.30†	- 0.80	
Extra Income #	54.16	57.00	+ 0.35	5.71
Far East Emg Eco	126.90	133.10	- 0.30	0.47
Fixed Interest #	26.77	27.84†	+ 0.06	8.73
Fixed Int Tst #	165.60	173.70†	+ 0.70	9.56
Japan	174.20	181.10	- 0.10	
Latin American	73.22	76.18	+ 0.09	0.64
Pacific	81.73	85.79†	- 0.13	0.31
Property Share	84.37	88.56	+ 0.68	1.98
UK Emerging Cos	72.72	78.60	+ 0.21	1.22
UK Growth	63.17	65.79†	+ 0.79	1.79
Abw World Port #	89.39	94.08	+ 0.52	2.54
Ethical	84.54	87.92	+ 0.13	2.01
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	51.09	51.14	- 0.07	7.25
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 256 5868				
Pacall Property #	100.30	106.70		5.32
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
01452 305 958				
Amity Income	101.21	107.38	+ 0.58	1.88
Income Builder Inc	89.60	95.32	+ 0.75	3.67
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC				
IFA dlg: 01793 610 366 Client dlg: 01793 514 514				
Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	327.30	349.80†	+ 1.20	2.66
Capital	581.10	621.10†	+ 2.00	1.01
Balanced	956.40	1022.00	+ 4.00	2.39
Accumulator	1845.00	1972.00†	+ 9.00	1.58
Income Trusts				
American Income	72.43	77.29	+ 0.19	2.10
High Income	527.90	564.10	+ 2.70	3.78
Equity Income	298.80	319.30	+ 1.60	3.48
High Yield	317.00	338.80†	+ 1.50	3.56
Govt Securities	35.82	37.82†	+ 0.02	5.77
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	245.60	262.10	+ 1.20	0.04
European Growth	63.72	68.01	+ 0.56	0.06
International	205.70	219.60†	+ 0.80	0.10
Japan	180.10	192.50	+ 0.10	
Pacific	406.50	434.50		
Secs of America	658.50	701.70	+ 4.50	0.11
Wwide Asset Val	59.73	63.83	- 0.10	0.02
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	743.00	794.20	+ 3.90	1.72
Conv & Gilt	54.24	58.62		3.61
Smaller Cos	314.90	329.70	+ 0.70	1.00
2nd Smaller Cos	203.90	217.90	+ 0.60	0.71
Recovery	187.90	200.80†	+ 0.60	1.41
Mtal Min & Cdty	159.70	170.70†	+ 0.70	0.18
Oseas Earnings	489.00	522.70†	+ 1.50	0.93
Technology	237.30	253.80†	+ 0.60	
UK Special Sits	654.80	699.90	+ 1.70	1.53
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01293 526 911				
Chrchl Qut Pens	127.30	132.20		
Foundtn Persl Pens	74.88	77.79		
For BOI-Thornhill see Thornhill				
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
0131 222 4242				
America	384.30	410.90	+ 4.30	
Bond	123.80	130.30†	+ 0.20	6.38
Brit Smlr Cos	117.90	125.40		1.79
Conv & Gen #	69.23	73.65	+ 0.24	5.24
Europe	328.50	348.80	- 1.40	0.10
Euro Smlr Cos	128.10	136.30	- 0.90	0.31
Income Gwth	398.30	423.70†	+ 1.50	4.47
Japan	307.10	326.10	- 0.30	
Latin American	108.00	114.90	- 1.20	0.56
Pacific	121.30	129.00	- 0.10	0.50
UK Smlr Cos	60.65	64.52	+ 0.11	1.24
Japan Fd	575.60	593.10	- 5.70	
Mngd Fd	224.90	238.80†	- 1.60	2.57
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
0171 489 8673				
Brit & Oseas	410.70	434.40		0.81
Capital Gwth	145.20	153.60		2.72
Wwide Opps	241.10	255.00		0.85
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD				
0181 522 4000				
Balanced Trusts				
Gwth & Inc Inc	485.10	516.00†	+ 4.30	1.99
European Bd Inc	99.89	103.50	+ 0.10	5.63

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Pacific Portfolio	161.08	173.21	+ 0.09	0.77
UK Equity	108.58	115.95†	+ 1.24	3.10
UK Equity & Bd	62.72	66.48	+ 0.48	6.10
UK Smlr Cos	56.23	59.07	+ 0.12	1.61
CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fd Inc	834.18	846.70	...	3.99
Inv Fd Acc	8644.3	8774.0	+ 25.03	
Fxd Int Sec Inc	157.83	158.47		9.02
Fxd Int Sec Acc	162.38	163.04	+ 4.02	
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	837.19	849.85	+ 14.85	4.07
Investment Acc	13948	14007	+ 70.34	
Fixed Int Inc	130.23	130.75	+ 2.53	6.67
Fixed Int Acc	247.78	248.78	+ 4.88	
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	86.84	91.56		5.47
Beck Bio-Tech	39.14	42.60		
Acorn Ethical Tst	192.41	202.05		0.42
City Fin Assets	84.32	88.54†		1.91
City Fin Intl	91.99	96.60†		0.06
Friars Hse Cap	325.56	346.34	...	2.30
Bradbury Wld Gth	144.24	152.89		
J Sld Inc/Gth Inc	64.86	68.11		2.12
Shaw Utilities	67.90	69.63†	+ 0.05	6.36
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	60.69	64.38	+ 0.13	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Gwth	85.75	91.22	+ 1.02	
Dragon Growth	72.01	77.01	- 0.47	0.33
Equity High Inc	104.25	110.31	+ 1.23	3.47
-do- Accum	152.83	161.72	+ 1.80	3.47
Extra Income Inc	27.85	29.31†	+ 0.05	6.58
Extra Income Acc	31.54	33.19	+ 0.06	6.58
European Gwth	73.32	77.59	+ 0.39	0.25
Evergreen	32.80	35.08	+ 0.15	
General Equity	122.81	129.61	+ 1.60	2.44
Japan Growth	42.23	44.93	+ 0.04	
Pedigree Gwth	73.00	77.24	+ 0.83	1.96
Pnd Sm Cos Inc	41.26	43.66†	+ 0.06	1.18
-do- Accum	44.20	46.77	+ 0.06	1.18
Retirement Inc #	31.31	33.31	+ 0.37	5.31
Special Sits	52.30	56.24	+ 0.29	2.59
UK & Overseas	66.76	70.65	+ 0.42	0.59
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD				
01634 888 000				
Balanced	77.53	80.76	+ 0.71	3.80
Capital	94.33	98.32	+ 1.22	2.24
High Income	54.43	56.69†	+ 0.10	6.53
Top 50	66.86	69.64	+ 0.97	2.31
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	213.98	222.92†	+ 0.09	4.12
Long Gilt	46.94	48.87†	+ 0.21	5.63
Monthly Inc Plus	54.11	56.37	+ 0.14	7.95
Preference Share	51.29	53.43†	+ 0.07	7.30
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	155.59	162.09†	- 0.18	5.26
Managed Fund	82.83	86.29†	+ 0.32	2.57
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	56.11	57.41†	- 0.09	1.65
-do- Accum	66.90	68.65†	- 0.12	1.65
UK & General	111.77	116.44†	+ 0.79	2.59
-do- Accum	148.18	154.37†	+ 1.05	2.59
UK Growth	223.60	232.94†	+ 0.57	1.21
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	247.21	257.54†	+ 1.31	0.56
Far Eastern Gth	133.36	138.93†	- 0.86	0.02
Global Bond	74.30	77.40†	- 0.21	6.40
Japan Growth	105.75	110.17†	+ 0.12	
North Amer Gth	275.42	286.98†	+ 1.84	
Oriental Growth	85.66	89.24†	- 0.74	0.26
Worldwide Growth	79.56	82.88†	+ 0.07	
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	91.92	91.92†	+ 0.01	5.55
Homeowners Fund	100.69	107.13	+ 1.19	2.01
Unitiser Fund	174.10	185.23	+ 2.22	1.94
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Consistent UT	38.63	41.50		3.81
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0800 526 358				
Growth	195.90	208.40†	+ 1.10	1.64
Income	80.05	85.16	+ 0.27	4.16
European	85.11	90.54	- 0.19	0.34
Recovery	188.50	200.50†	- 3.60	2.64
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 280 9494				
Equity Dist	1084.00	1102.90		3.15
CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD				
01277 690 370				
Fellowship Tst	117.70	125.20†	+ 0.30	1.09
Income #	311.50	331.30†	+ 3.50	4.15
-do- Accum #	847.10	901.10	+ 9.40	4.15
Smaller Cos	238.70	253.90	+ 0.10	0.94
-do- Accum	297.40	316.30	+ 0.10	0.94
Gth Portfolio	110.70	117.70	+ 1.10	1.21
High Inc Port #	91.99	97.86	+ 1.19	4.27
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
0171 470 1634				
Global Sm Cos	1703.40	1735.90		
UK Small Cos	2310.70	2405.80		2.85
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	240.90	248.40		3.14
EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD				
01242 577 555				
UK Balanced Inc	198.10	210.70	+ 1.80	1.53
UK High Inc Inc	203.80	216.80†	+ 2.30	3.29
-do- Accum	284.30	302.40†	+ 3.30	3.29
UK Pref & F I Inc	62.91	66.76	+ 0.11	5.54
Environmtl Opps	116.60	124.00†	+ 0.90	0.81
UK Smlr Cos #	76.78	81.68	- 0.18	0.83
Extra Income Inc	52.73	56.08	+ 0.05	6.57
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0345 090 526				
Convertibles #	24.12	25.63	+ 0.16	5.46
Enterprise	116.20	123.70	- 0.30	2.03
Equity Income #	159.20	169.20	+ 2.10	3.78
European	71.26	75.44	+ 0.04	
Financial	66.96	71.15	+ 0.13	1.41
Growth & Inc #	322.00	342.10	+ 3.30	2.56
High Dist #	197.50	209.80†	+ 2.10	4.05
International	454.80	483.20		0.21
Intl Cap Inc	115.40	123.20†	+ 0.20	2.19
Latin American	37.94	40.41	+ 0.02	
Pacific	84.39	89.66	- 0.73	
Pref High Inc	23.79	25.24†	+ 0.12	7.13
Tokyo	195.20	206.50	- 1.50	
UK Smaller Cos	258.60	274.80†	+ 0.90	1.09

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	252.50	268.80†	+ 0.52	
Income & Growth	255.60	271.90	- 2.80	4.08
-do- Accum	413.00	439.40	+ 4.60	4.08
Intl Growth	444.50	473.90†	- 0.70	
-do- Accum	493.60	526.20†	- 0.70	
Japan & Gen	153.30	162.80	- 0.70	
-do- Accum	154.90	164.50	- 0.20	
Monthly Inc #	218.70	232.70†	- 1.50	4.26
-do- Accum #	223.90	238.20†	+ 1.70	4.26
Managed Fxd Inc	129.10	135.90†	+ 0.60	1.32
-do- Accum	142.00	149.50†	+ 0.70	1.32
Quarterly Income #	60.61	64.83†	+ 0.46	5.07
-do- Accum #	71.58	76.57†	+ 0.54	5.07
Recovery	345.30	369.30		
-do- Accum	407.60	435.90		
UK Growth	74.80	79.57	+ 0.84	2.76
-do- Accum	81.10	86.28	- 0.90	2.76
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealing 01722 715635 Enq 01722 715834				
FP American	71.76	76.35	- 1.13	0.03
FP Am Smllr Cos	200.50	213.80†	- 0.80	
FP Asian Growth	293.00	312.50	- 1.40	
FP Australian	466.20	497.20	- 5.10	
FP Equity Dist	516.00	550.30†	+ 5.00	2.14
-do- Accum	611.64	912.41	+ 13.00	2.14
FP Euro Gth	341.20	363.90	+ 1.60	
-do- Accum	374.30	399.20	+ 1.90	
FP Intl Bond	56.47	59.75	- 0.17	4.17
FP Intl Gth Dist	41.87	44.59	+ 0.19	
-do- Accum	61.41	65.50	- 0.29	
FP Pac Basin Acc	224.60	239.50		
FP Income #	66.64	71.09	+ 0.65	4.62
-do- Accum #	236.90	252.60	- 2.30	4.62
FP Jap Smllr Cos	235.30	250.90	- 1.10	
FP Monthly Dist #	81.92	87.44†	+ 0.45	5.14
FP Stlg Deposit	100.50	100.50†		5.21
FP Tokyo	74.21	73.15	- 0.13	
FP UK Focus	48.36	51.57†	+ 0.50	1.41
FP UK Growth	229.50	244.80	+ 2.90	1.84
-do- Accum	466.90	498.00	+ 6.00	1.84
Stewardship Dist	465.10	496.10†	- 0.50	1.29
-do- Accum	597.70	637.10	+ 0.60	1.29
Stwdshp Inc Dist #	80.32	85.67†	+ 0.18	4.99
-do- Accum #	113.60	121.10	+ 0.33	4.99
N Am Stshp Dist	141.70	151.10	+ 1.50	0.14
-do- Accum	152.50	162.60	+ 1.60	0.14
FP Exempt Tsts				
Inst Ethical In #	117.00	117.50	+ 0.80	2.90
Inst Ethical Ac #	117.00	117.50	+ 0.90	2.90
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Gwth Acc	139.10	147.90†	+ 1.00	0.75
Open Cap Gth Acc	141.80	150.80†	+ 0.90	
Cap Gth Inc Inc #	127.00	135.10	+ 0.80	3.02
Cap Gth Inc Acc #	136.10	144.70	+ 0.80	3.02
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ic #	131.50	139.80	+ 0.40	3.73
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ac #	142.40	151.40	+ 0.40	3.73
GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0345 581 106/7				
GANDA	340.40	361.20†	+ 3.50	1.58
Cash	49.33	50.07†	+ 0.01	4.55
Growth Portfolio	100.80	107.20	- 0.50	
Income Portfolio	80.21	85.10†	+ 0.29	3.56
GEM DOLPHIN INV MGRS LTD				
0171 236 6441				
Special Sits	240.70	257.40	- 1.49	0.50
Dividend	112.20	120.00	+ 0.70	3.88
Inq Gth & Inc	277.50	296.80	- 0.80	1.40
UK & Gen	56.30	60.20	- 0.25	[illegible]
Fund of Funds	80.45	86.04†	+ 0.09	
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD				
Inv 0800 212274 Dealing 0171 826 9431				
American Smlr Cos	211.70	226.50	+ 3.00	0.15
European Gth	830.90	883.70	- 0.70	0.54
Euro Eq & Bd Inc	57.64	61.13†	- 0.06	3.90
-do- Accum	66.18	70.20	- 0.06	3.90
Far East & Gen †				
High Yield #	52.30	55.25†	+ 0.08	7.42
-do- Accum #	60.46	63.87	- 0.09	7.42
Income Inc	217.20	232.30	+ 1.40	3.72
-do- Accum	252.70	269.30	+ 1.70	3.72
Intl Growth	407.60	432.50	- 1.80	0.39
Intl Income	105.40	111.60	+ 0.70	2.44
Japan Growth	446.90	474.20	- 1.40	
Orient Acc	208.70	222.60	- 1.20	0.73
UK General Inc	207.80	222.00	+ 1.70	1.58
UK General Acc	373.00	398.70	+ 3.20	1.58
UK Sm Cos Div Acc	66.24	70.95	- 0.48	1.64
UK Spec Sits	115.40	123.50	+ 0.80	1.33
US Growth	208.80	220.80	+ 1.10	
Wwide Spec Sits	171.00	181.80	- 0.60	

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Japan Smllr Cos	177.17	187.87†	- 0.11	
Pacific Smlr Cos	231.74	246.88†	- 0.01	
North American	365.25	387.17	+ 3.68	..
American Smaller	178.05	189.74†	+ 0.26	..
HIGH PEAK UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
Income & Growth #	174.90	184.20	+ 0.20	4.92
HILL SAMUEL UNIT TST MGRS				
0181 686 4355				
British	142.04	148.74†	+ 1.86	1.59
Capital	227.87	238.61	+ 2.66	1.56
Dollar	564.98	591.60	+ 10.18	
Enterprise Gth	458.95	480.57	+ 0.82	0.76
European	319.61	334.67	+ 2.32	0.15
Far East	304.18	318.51	- 0.27	0.42
Financial	513.02	513.63†	+ 9.79	1.71
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	27.80	26.70†	+ 0.02	6.45
High Yield #	127.51	133.52	+ 1.46	4.46
Income & Growth #	187.01	195.82†	+ 2.42	3.30
International	318.79	335.31	+ 3.88	0.29
Japanese General	181.71	190.27	+ 2.19	.
Japan Tech	82.00	85.87	+ 0.99	
Natl Resources	80.35	84.14†	- 0.85	0.28
Portfolio	91.57	95.88†	+ 0.79	1.27
Special Sits	237.26	248.44	+ 0.19	0.16
UK Emerging Cos	139.75	146.33	+ 0.48	0.96
US Smaller Cos	158.34	165.80	+ 1.56	
HSBC UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Advisers 0800 181 890 Investors 0800 289 505				
Active Funds-UK				
Income #	732.80	782.10	+ 7.20	4.28
UK Growth	815.10	869.90†	+ 16.10	1.42
High Income #	130.20	139.00†	+ 1.00	5.52
Active Funds-International				
American Gwth	713.90	755.30†	- 9.40	0.28
European Gwth	173.40	184.20	+ 1.20	0.20
Japan Gwth	257.50	273.70	+ 0.10	
Japan Smllr Cos	27.18	29.01	- 0.02	
Asian	62.61	66.82	- 0.43	
Sing & Malay Gwth	86.49	92.31†	- 0.82	
Hong Kong Gwth	197.20	210.20	- 1.30	0.82
Global Bond	21.29	22.43	- 0.10	4.88
Index Funds-UK				
UK Index	195.60	196.60	+ 2.60	2.80
Trade Index	136.10	139.70		2.06
THE FOOTSIE FUND	78.59	78.99	+ 1.33	2.13
Index Funds-International				
American Index	341.40	343.10	+ 3.80	0.87
Eurotrack 100	228.50	229.60	+ 1.30	1.29
Japan Index	67.13	67.47	- 0.25	0.10
Tiger Index	178.70	182.80	- 0.70	0.08
INVESCO FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 626 3434 Dealing: 0800 010 733				
UK Specialist Trusts				
UK Smaller Cos	56.08	58.57	+ 0.15	1.18
General Funds				
Managed Dist	97.57	101.90†	+ 0.50	1.01
Managed	101.00	105.50†	+ 0.50	1.01
Report Childs Fnd	123.10	128.40†	+ 2.10	1.80
UK Growth	80.80	84.39†	+ 0.94	1.45
High Income Funds				
UK Extra Inc #	98.83	103.20	+ 0.80	5.17
Gilt & Fixed Int #	28.06	28.98†	+ 0.06	7.36
UK Inc & Gwth	55.10	57.55†	+ 0.62	2.84
UK Income #	422.88	441.60†	+ 3.90	4.06
Overseas Growth Funds				
American Growth	67.71	70.15	+ 0.25	..
Amer Smllr Cos	160.50	167.60	+ 0.50	
-do- Accum	162.20	169.40	+ 0.50	.
Europe Gth	271.30	283.30	+ 1.00	
-do- Accum	281.00	293.50	+ 1.10	
Euro Smaller Cos	50.40	52.47	- 0.13	
French Growth	110.00	114.30	+ 1.60	0.03
-do- Accum	119.10	123.70	+ 1.90	0.03
H Kong & China	130.50	136.00	- 1.80	0.48
Intl Growth	75.59	78.74	+ 0.49	0.36
-do- Accum	77.02	80.23	+ 0.50	0.36
Japan Gth	26.51	27.63	- 0.08	.
-do- Accum	26.51	27.63	- 0.08	.
Japan Smaller Cos	29.78	31.08	- 0.08	
Slcte Emrg Mkts	103.90	108.50		
-do- Accum	104.60	108.29		0.11
SE Asia	352.00	367.60	- 3.90	
Overseas Income Funds				
Intl Bond #	50.59	52.15	- 0.13	6.21
JOHNSON FRY UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
Enq 01277 227300 Dealing 01277 690446				
UK Income #	120.60	128.40†	+ 1.60	3.18

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Shas Gwth	215.30	229.60	- 1.10	0.88
New Japan	83.17	87.80	+ 0.23	
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	186.00	197.80	- 1.60	
Income #	249.35	265.25	+ 1.21	3.91
UK Growth	98.59	102.75	+ 0.47	1.80
Intl Growth	96.20	102.34	+ 0.79	0.55
Ecology	111.63	118.75†	+ 0.30	0.88
European	237.53	252.41	- 0.19	0.20
Far Eastern	324.90	345.60	- 2.50	
UK Special Sits	60.75	64.79†	+ 0.20	0.37
Fd of Inv Tsts	58.02	61.88†	+ 0.30	
High Income #	56.68	60.45†	+ 0.37	4.63

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 01277 261 010 Enq: 01903 204 631				
European Growth	118.35	125.90†	+ 0.68	0.47
Intl Bond	62.57	65.73†	- 0.02	4.99
Intl Equity Growth	93.46	99.28†	+ 0.43	0.61
N Amer Growth	155.95	165.80	+ 2.86	0.87
Special Sits Growth	31.81	33.83	+ 2.06	2.08
UK Growth	526.25	559.83†	+ 4.75	2.52
-do- Accum	734.09	780.94	+ 6.63	2.52
M&W JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1504.40	1527.70†	..	2.80
Income #	1099.80	1115.90	...	4.50

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealers 0171 956 7254				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	105.70	109.20		8.50
Euro Pro Inc	115.20	122.60	- 0.70	2.75
-do- Accum	115.20	122.60	- 0.70	2.75
Gilt Yield	124.20	131.00	+ 0.50	6.17
Global Income	247.90	263.70†	+ 1.00	2.96
High Yield	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	4.69
-do- Accum	630.70	671.00†	+ 14.40	4.63
Money Market	99.79	99.79†	[illegible]	5.59
Smllr Cos Div	66.55	70.80†	- 0.07	3.65

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	181.80	185.50†		4.13
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
0800 363432				
High Inc #	98.52	102.60†	+ 0.50	6.40
M & S Inc Ptflio	197.08	203.10	+ 1.30	2.29
-do- Accum	236.10	243.40	+ 1.40	2.29
UK Sel Ptflio	180.00	185.50	+ 2.00	2.27
-do- Accum	219.10	225.90	+ 2.40	2.27
UK 100 Cos	139.40	139.40	+ 2.00	2.33
-do- Accum	142.90	142.90	+ 2.10	2.33

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Tonight the £25,000 NCR non-fiction book prize will be announced at the Dorchester. Derwent May met the judges

Boiling down the book list

1997 NCR BOOK AWARD FOR NON-FICTION

Clive Anderson, the witty barrister who has his own television show, is the chairman of the judges for this year's £25,000 NCR Book Award for Non-Fiction. He has never been a book judge before, he told me, but he has always been a great reader of non-fiction — particularly of politicians' memoirs. "In fact," he said, "I've read so many of those that I could write my own political memoirs without having had a political career."

However, he and his fellow judges have been faced this winter and spring with a daunting variety of books to read. "It's quite a fun problem," he said, "but it's a real one. Novels can vary widely but in some sense they cover the same area, and you can make comparisons between them. But how can you compare books on, say, history and science?

"On the other hand, that lets you off the hook in one way. You feel freer. If Martin Amis doesn't win a fiction prize, all his supporters feel betrayed and get into a rage. But if you give a history book a prize, how can the scientists complain?"

His fellow judges were the astronomer Dr Heather Couper, the *Times* columnist Nigella Lawson, David Taylor, who is a bookseller at Blackwell's in Oxford, and radio and television broadcaster Sarah Kennedy, who has been the Variety Club's "TV Woman of the Year".

They met at the NCR offices in London. Publishers were free to put in as many books as they wished for the prize, and in the end there were 122 books for the judges to get through. The NCR organisers gave them a little help by getting a team of readers to write preliminary reports on all the books for them. But Anderson decided the judges should not eliminate any book too quickly.

"Even if the readers only said that a book was quite good," he said, "I decided we should keep it in and read it properly."

The judges worked their way through the books without too much disagreement in the early stages, brought the number of candidates down to about 25, then reduced it to a long list of 11. After that, the arguments grew hotter.

"Luckily," said Anderson, "judges who had started out by pressing hard for a book sometimes came back saying they had changed their mind, much to the relief of the others — 'we're glad we haven't got to break it to you. . .' "

Anderson himself looked at lots of reviews of the books, but he did not think very highly of them. "Too often some expert on the subject, probably a rival, was asked to review the book. He'd give all his own theories and just have two lines about the book at the end saying 'useful' or 'full of errors'. Not much help."

The NCR Book Award judges: from left, chairman Clive Anderson, David Taylor, Sarah Kennedy, Dr Heather Couper (seated) and Nigella Lawson

I asked Nigella Lawson what she thought of Anderson as a chairman. "Very good — he took his duties seriously. But he was a bit bossy," she said. "Very keen to stick to the rules. At the Booker Prize, the publishers are limited in the number of novels they can submit, but the judges can call in others that they particularly admire.

"There was one I very much wanted to call in, but Clive said no, it wasn't permitted under the rules. He's a lawyer, of course."

I put that remark to Anderson. "Oh!" he said. "I didn't see myself as a tough chairman. I was amiability itself! Nigella was very, very helpful with her knowledge of the literary world, but she sees herself as a rebellious figure."

I left that dispute there. Nigella Lawson told me she had had many agreeable surprises reading the books. "Sometimes the subject matter of a book just didn't seem me. But one persisted and sometimes one was quite won over and devoured it.

"I also thought it was very important not to try to second guess the reading public and think what they might like. One just had to trust one's instinct."

David Taylor, the judge from Blackwell's, has written an article for *The Bookseller* about his experiences on the panel. He found it was a neat way of getting out of the decorating at home.

"White spirits, sandpaper and Dulux just do not mix with biographies of Woolf, Beckett and large tomes on Europe," he says. But he too seemed a little scared of Anderson, if he didn't get on fast enough with the reading: "I've seen the way he interviews people on those television chat shows".

Taylor, like some of the other judges, was sorry that Dava Sobell's *Longitude* was ruled out because she is American, but he got a bit sick of books on Bloomsbury.

"Personally, I think it is only a matter of time before the *Roger Fry Guide to Home Decorating* comes out."

> 'It was important not to try to second guess the reading public'

Sarah Kennedy and Heather Couper both came up with passionate opinions at the meetings, I am told. However, Heather Couper was always going to and from Australia, reading her books on the flight.

According to Anderson, she said: "If you hold the meetings near Heathrow, I shall be able to stay longer."

Sarah Kennedy said the competition had prompted her to read books she would not normally have looked at. She had enjoyed that and had found herself working amicably with the other judges — so far.

So far — because the final judging session is still to come this afternoon. Nigella Lawson told me there are two books on the shortlist of four (see below) that everyone wanted to see there, and two books that were much fought over.

If one of those latter two has a determined and persuasive advocate, it could still win. The convictions and allegiances come and go in a really fierce judging session.

They will be arguing, she thinks, right up to the last minute, and will go from reaching their verdict straight in to the presentation dinner at the Dorchester.

Support for quality in the community

The NCR Book Award for Non-Fiction celebrates its tenth anniversary today, and the judges' choice for the 1997 award will be announced at a dinner at the Dorchester Hotel tonight. The winner will receive a prize of £25,000, plus the £2,500 that all the four shortlisted authors will be given. It was the first substantial non-fiction prize in Britain and now ranks in value and prestige alongside the Booker and Whitbread Prizes.

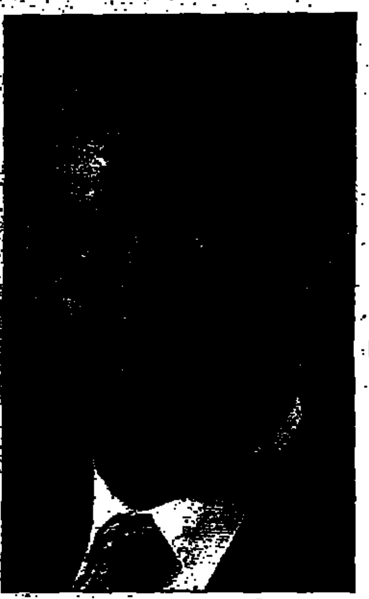
What does "NCR" mean? When the author A.N. Wilson was once in for the prize, he thought it must be something to do with National Car Parks. In fact, NCR is an international information technology solutions company that gets its name from an earlier phase in its history when it was the National Cash Register Company, making those tills that used to "ding" on shop counters.

Nowadays, it makes vast computer systems for business, or "data warehouses", that are evolving in complexity all the time. Their products include most of the "hole in the wall" cash systems used by British banks.

NCR was taken over by another company, AT&T, in 1991, and in 1994 the prize changed its name for one year to the AT & T Award. In 1995, NCR became independent again and changed the name of the prize back.

Malcolm Roberts, the chairman and managing director of NCR in Britain and Ireland, says the company is very proud of the prize and has two reasons for giving it. One is that it believes in quality and demonstrates that belief, and helps the community at the same time, by supporting good writing, just as it sponsors the Wasps rugby team and the Philharmonia Orchestra.

The other, about which Mr Roberts is quite frank, is that NCR likes to entertain business customers, many of whom will be guests at the dinner tonight.


NCR chairman Malcolm Roberts

BOOKMAKERS' LATEST ODDS

WILLIAM HILL

***Europe*, Norman Davies, 5-4 favourite; *Gunpowder Plot*, Antonia Fraser 11-4; *People's Tragedy*, Orlando Figes, 3-1; *Jung*, Frank McLynn, 7-2 outsider.**

LADBROKES

***Europe*, Norman Davies, Evens; *People's Tragedy*, Orlando Figes, 3-1; *Gunpowder Plot*, Antonia Fraser, 7-2; *Jung*, Frank McLynn, 4-1.**

PREVIOUS WINNERS

1988 *Nairn in Darkness and Light*. By David Thomson. Hutchinson
1989 *Touching the Void*. By Joe Simpson. Cape
1990 *Citizens*. By Simon Schama. Viking
1991 *The Invisible Woman*. By Claire Tomalin. Viking
1992 *Wild Swans*. By Jung Chang. HarperCollins.
1993 *Never Again: Britain 1945-51*. By Peter Hennessy. Cape
1994 *Edward Heath*. By John Campbell. Cape
1995 *Coming Back Brockens*. By Mark Hudson. Cape
1996 *The Railway Man*. By Eric Lomax. Cape

NCR

For inquiries about NCR, readers should ring 0171-725 8989

THE SHORTLISTED BOOKS

Insight: the full savagery of the Russian Revolution

A People's Tragedy: The Russian Revolution, 1891-1924.
By Orlando Figes (Cape, £25)

ORLANDO FIGES is an historian in his thirties, a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and already the winner of the W.H. Smith Literary Award for 1997 for this book. In an interview, Andrew Marr, the Editor of *The Independent*, called the book "a vast, hugely impressive history", which tells the story of "the greatest political upheaval of modern times".

But Marr also found something else in it. It clings, he said, neither to established left-wing or right-wing views of the revolution. "Its most radical departure is that he portrays the Russian people as a main protagonist in their own tragedy: the creators of anti-Jewish pogroms, of massacres, of civil war atrocities: enthusiastic participants in the Red terror, even — as famine stalked Russia — cannibals who ate children".

Figes told Marr that this view had been misinterpreted by some reviewers as anti-Russian bigotry — but what he was trying to do was to "grapple with the problem of violence, which was central to the revolution".

Norman Stone in *The Sunday Times* thought that Figes had underestimated the influence of Lenin, but added that he doubted "if there is anyone in the world who knows the revolution as well as he does". Curtis Keeble remarked in *The Daily Telegraph* that Figes "pays a well-deserved tribute to his mother, the novelist Eva Figes, for showing him how to practise the art of narrative.

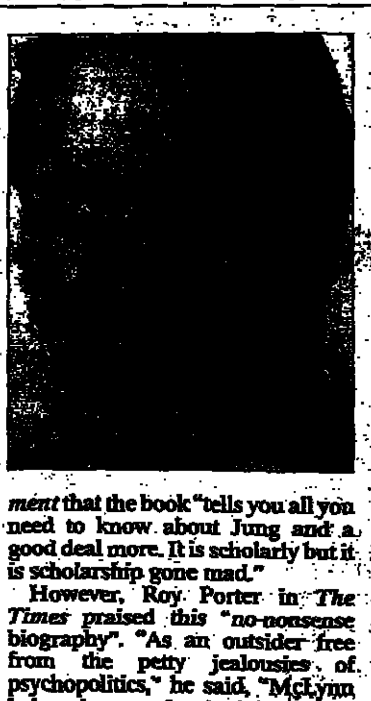
"She did a good job. Figes succeeds in holding the reader's attention throughout his chronicle."

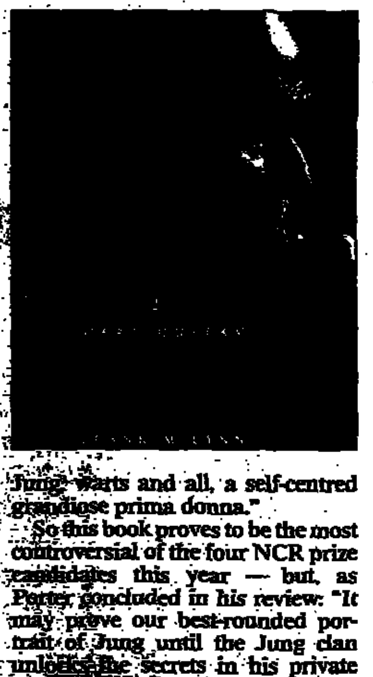
Controversy: a new Jung biography, warts and all

Carl Gustav Jung: A Biography.
By Frank McLynn (Bantam, £25)

FRANK McLYNN is an experienced biographer who has already written books on, among others, H.M. Stanley, Sir Richard Burton and Fitzroy Maclean. His new biography of Jung plunged him into more dangerous territory, since few wars are more viciously fought than those between the psychotherapists.

In the *Financial Times*, J.D.F. Jones said it was not necessary to be a "Jungian" or to have gone through analysis to write a biography of "this towering figure of our time". Nevertheless: "Jung can only be appreciated, for better or worse, after long experience, consideration and evaluation of his ideas. 'I deliberately did not seek expert advice or academic readings,' McLynn professes. Why not?" Jones especially disliked what he called "the unceasing denigration of Jung" in this biography.





Stuart Sutherland wrote in *The Times Higher Education Supplement* that the book "tells you all you need to know about Jung and a good deal more. It is scholarly but it is scholarship gone mad."

However, Roy Porter in *The Times* praised this "no-nonsense biography". "As an outsider free from the petty jealousies of psychopolitics," he said, "McLynn is just the man for the job. Here is Jung, warts and all, a self-centred grandiose prima donna."

So this book proves to be the most controversial of the four NCR prize candidates this year — but, as Porter concluded in his review: "It may prove our best-rounded portrait of Jung until the Jung clan unlocks the secrets in his private papers."

Grisly plot: galloping storytelling that shames our history

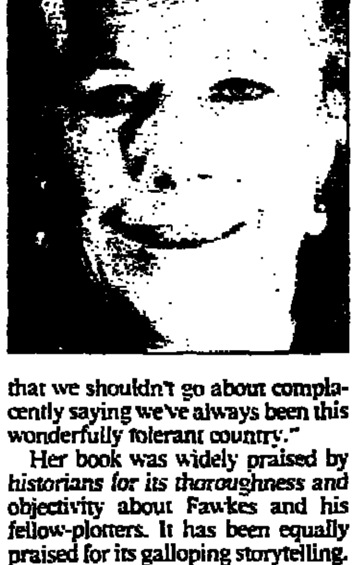
The Gunpowder Plot: Terror and Faith in 1605. By Antonia Fraser (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20)

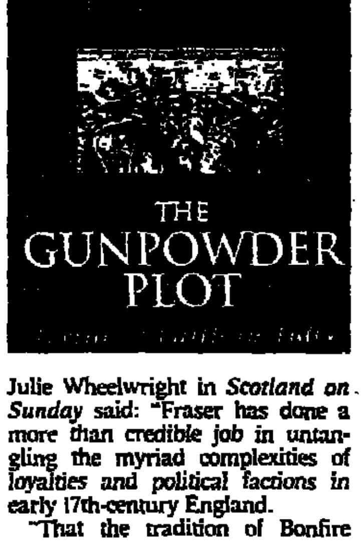
LADY ANTONIA FRASER has written many books about 16th and 17th-century history, but perhaps none has involved her so emotionally as this study of the Gunpowder Plot.

She told Valerie Grove, who interviewed her for *The Times*, that there was never a guy on Bonfire Night in her family. "There is something deeply unpleasant about it, don't you think? Catholic families don't burn guys if they know anything about November 5. If burning books leads to burning human beings, what does burning effigies lead to?"

Her researches into the extent of the Catholic oppression, and the persecution of priests, in the early 17th century shocked her.

In 1613 a Bill was introduced into the House of Commons to compel Catholics to wear a red hat or particoloured stockings like clowns. "It did not succeed, but it reminds us that we shouldn't go about complacently saying we've always been this wonderfully tolerant country."





Her book was widely praised by historians for its thoroughness and objectivity about Fawkes and his fellow-plotters. It has been equally praised for its galloping storytelling.

Frank McLynn in *The Irish Times* called it "an admirably balanced, nuanced and lucid piece of writing". Julie Wheelwright in *Scotland on Sunday* said: "Fraser has done a more than credible job in untangling the myriad complexities of loyalties and political factions in early 17th-century England.

"That the tradition of Bonfire Night, complete with effigies of the poor deluded Guy, shows no signs of abating is reason alone for welcoming *The Gunpowder Plot*."

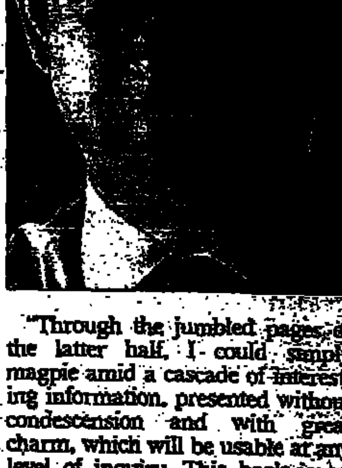
A must read: history of Europe from the Greeks to Gorbachev

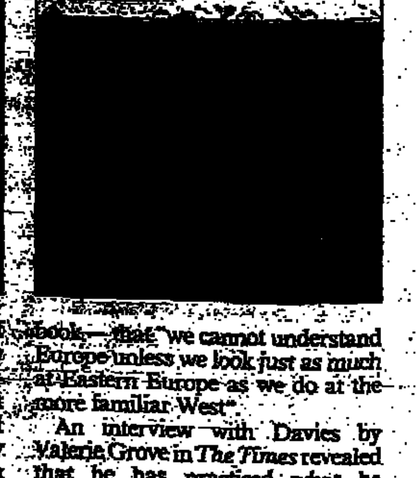
Europe: A History. By Norman Davies (Oxford University Press, £25)

NOT EVERY book gets a leading article devoted to it in *The Times*, but this one did. The leader writer called it "one of those great books for whom the critics' 'must read' verdict should be truly heeded".

He wrote that "the concept of Europe is the cause of almost constant political wrangling and grief" and that Norman Davies's "gripping account of the Continent from pre-history to modernity deserves the greatest possible readership among all who would take part in that debate".

There was general agreement about this among the critics. In *The Guardian*, Professor Norman Stone wrote cheerfully: "The first and most obvious virtue of Norman Davies's new book is that it reads like the old Arthur Mee *Children's Encyclopaedia*. It is Europe from the Greeks to Gorbachev, and is very long — so long that my proof copy fell apart. If anything, this made reading it even easier.





"Through the jumbled pages of the latter half, I could simply magpie amid a cascade of interesting information, presented without condescension and with great charm, which will be usable at any level of inquiry. This book is an astonishing piece of work."

In *The Sunday Telegraph*, Noel Malcolm made the point that a passionate thesis runs through the book — that we cannot understand Europe unless we look just as much at Eastern Europe as we do at the more familiar West".

An interview with Davies by Valerie Grove in *The Times* revealed that he has practised what he preaches. He has had two Polish wives and has written two histories of Poland that have made him a hero in that country.

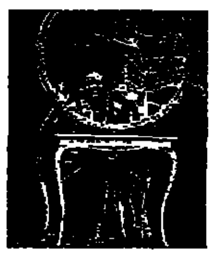
■ OPERA

How will the Royal Opera House cope with the crisis of Genista McIntosh's resignation?

■ MUSICALS 1

From the lurching deck, *and occasionally* lurching dialogue of the disaster show *Titanic* . . .

THE TIMES ARTS



■ MUSICALS 2

. . . to the scintillating *Ellington numbers* of *Play On!*: Broadway goes overboard for tunes

■ RISING STAR

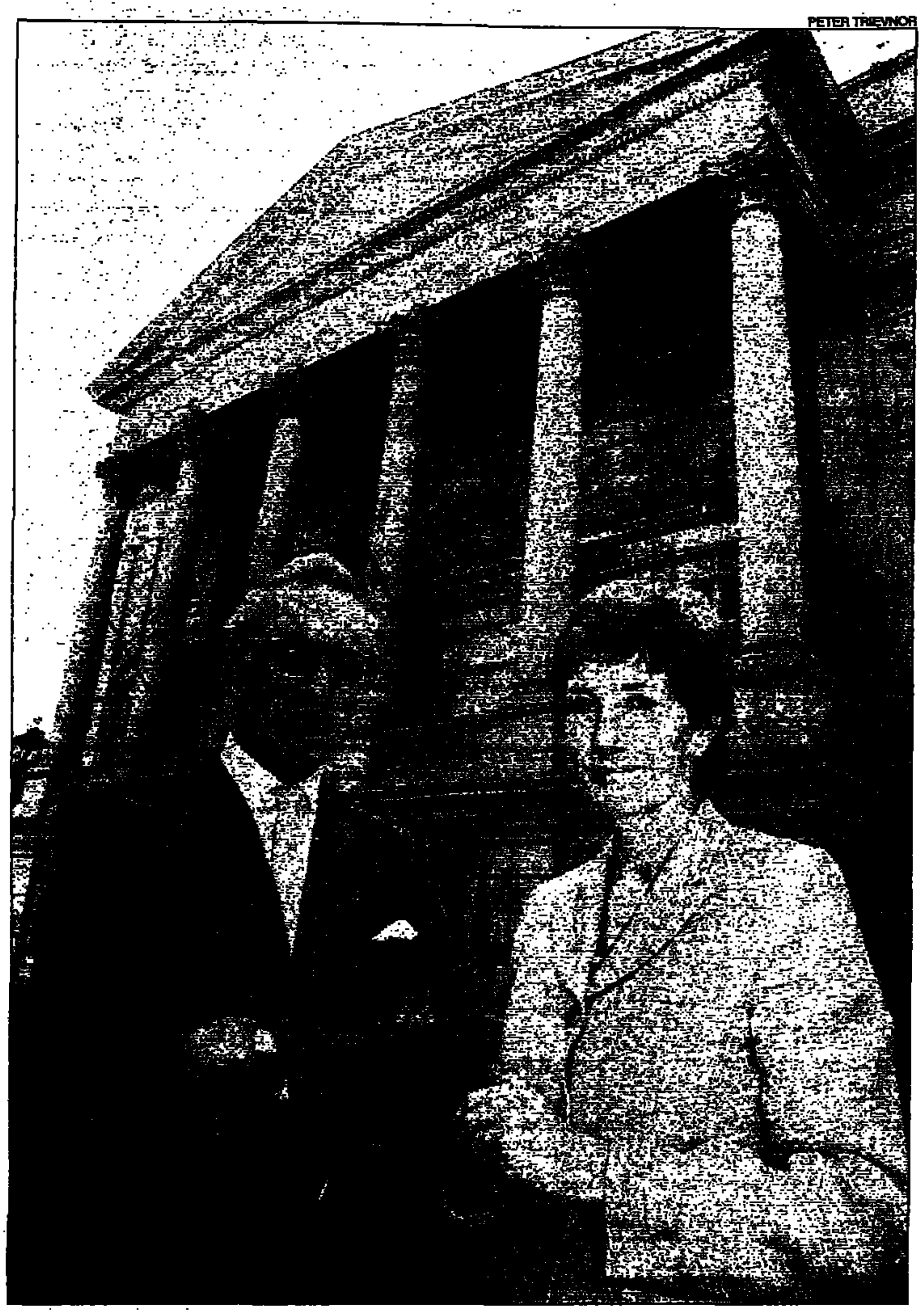
So what's a bright young woman doing playing jazz? Nikki Yeoh tells her story

The opera and theatre worlds were startled yesterday when two of London's leading figures unexpectedly quit their jobs

Turmoil at the Opera House

Genista McIntosh's shock resignation is symptomatic of a much deeper malaise at Covent Garden, says **Rodney Milnes**

PETER TREVNOR



Happier times? Lord Chadlington, chairman of the Royal Opera House, with Genista McIntosh — who resigned yesterday as the ROH's chief executive — outside Covent Garden last month

The graceless, singularly ill-worded press release announcing that Genista McIntosh is to "leave" her post as chief executive of the Royal Opera House — not resign — in the immediate future "due to ill-health" bears all the signs of panic-stricken haste. And the simultaneous announcement that Mary Allen, currently Secretary General of the Arts Council of England, has been appointed to succeed her is equally graceless, and perhaps premature.

If a job falls vacant, is it not customary to ask around a bit, if not actually advertise the post, especially one with so high a public profile in charge of an organisation *in receipt of huge sums of public* money? That the ROH board, not a body to have inspired much confidence over recent years, should simply appoint someone in five minutes, off its own bat, does seem high-handed.

This could not have happened at a worse time for Covent Garden. Quite apart from the redevelopment and the millions involved, and the ROH's fraught, frankly patched-together two years on the road which is about to start, there is the current dispute with the technicians' union Bectu over touring allowances during closure. With staff morale at an all-time low, that shows every sign of escalating.

The mood in the House yesterday was one of stunned shock. And that was not alleviated by an unfortunate slip of the tongue by the chairman, Lord Chadlington, when he told a staff meeting he was sad that McIntosh "had beeen forced to leave". The music director Bernard Haitink — the one towering artistic force at the ROH who could provide a rallying point for demoralised troops, or at least ask some pertinent questions — was elsewhere.

With everyone's lips tightly buttoned, one can only speculate. McIntosh, who only started in January, is a woman with ideas and ideals, as her interview on this page last month suggested. She had a vision of what the role of the ROH should be in the 21st century, as a national flagship of excellence yet one with some sort of social relevance.

If one were to depict the ROH as in the grip of a *Magic Flute*-style battle between forces of light and forces of darkness, then she led the light, challenging those who would frankly prefer the House to remain *what it has perforce become over* the last decade: a playground for the privileged, paid for by the taxpayer. The whole imbroglio is all the odder in that it is so out of step with the spirit of the time. All around us a New Age dawns, but not in Bow Street.

In that context the appointment of Mary Allen, however great her reputation as a shrewd and level-headed administrator, cannot inspire great confidence in ROH staff. She comes hot from a body responsible for so many of the House's current woes. Talk about poachers and gamekeepers. Nor can anyone be entirely confident that Chadlington will be any more successful at running the ROH than he was in drumming up support for the Conservatives during the election. The fact that he paid tribute to Lord Gowrie in the press release yesterday struck another discordant note. Talk about yesterday's men.

Perhaps one should have paid more attention to earlier warning signs. There is no doubt that Chadlington, who gives a clever but plainly misleading impression of being a Wodehousian silly ass, had every intention of being a hands-on chairman. He has organised himself an office in the building, and he virtually took over last month's press conference at which the first closure-period plans were announced.

There has been talk about interference from board members in day-to-day administration. Maybe the building simply wasn't big enough for the two of them, and at the time of her appointment some friends of McIntosh expressed surprise at her believing she could work with her chairman.

There is plainly more to this than meets the eye. (Friends in the theatre world might like to be assured that McIntosh is in robust health.) But certain facts are pretty well beyond dispute. For all its artistic achievements — near-miraculous in the circumstances — the ROH has not been well run at board level over the last decade: just look at the current mess. And for Gowrie to have pointed this out recently takes the biscuit for sheer cheek. The Arts Council, reduced to the status of a Treasury poodle, has long lost the confidence of its constituency. Now we see ACE persons, in the figures of Chadlington and Allen, mounting what looks very much like a coup in Bow Street.

It might be asking too much to suggest that nice Chris Smith should ride in on a white charger, throw the whole lot of them out, and appoint a temporary caretaker management. But worse things could happen — ie, they could go on muddling through as before. The very future of a great national institution is at stake.

Daldry will be missed

The Royal Court announced yesterday that Stephen Daldry is to stand down as its artistic director, *Benedict Nightingale writes*. The news will cause widespread consternation. At the age of 37, he is regarded as one of the most gifted figures in British theatre and was strongly tipped for the National's top job last year.

After putting the little Gate Theatre on the map with a series of fine revivals, he was appointed Court supremo in 1991 and has restored its artistic and financial fortunes. He has discovered many new young dramatists, among them Jez Butterworth, Joe Penhall and Martin McDonagh. What critics have described as a Theatre of Urban Ennui, marked by its abrasive portraits of city life, has emerged at the Court and its *tiny Theatre Upstairs. Not since* the Osborne era in the late 1950s has there been such a buzz at the theatre.

Daldry also won £16 million from the lottery, and substantial sums from other sources, for an ambitious plan to rebuild the Court. As soon as work started last year, he shifted operations to the West End, presenting a striking season of "Court classics" at the Duke of York's as well as creating two auditoria in the Ambassadors and giving the world premiere of Pinter's *Ashes to Ashes* in one of them.

It will be hard to find a leader of comparable ability. The plan is that the new artistic director should formally take over this autumn, but work alongside Daldry until the Court returns to Sloane Square late next year.

Temperamental restlessness probably explains Daldry's departure. It is no secret that he has received offers from Hollywood and wants to try his hand at films.

Battered on Broadway

NEW YORK THEATRE:

Benedict Nightingale rounds up the musicals vying for a Tony

JOAN MARCUS

That sinking feeling on board *Titanic*: but if the storyline is becalmed, there are at least some memorable moments

Once again it is time to thank the theatrical gods that no British awards dominate and distort the West End anything like as drastically as the Tonies do the Broadway season. Just before May Day, the last moment you can qualify for a nomination, a great, gaudy phalanx of barely-ready musicals comes banging into New York, lighting up long-dark theatres and clamouring for the ballots that will bring them publicity and a chance of recouping their preposterous costs.

It is a lunatic business, and this year we British have been unusually active in the Broadway asylum. Our Michael Blakemore directed the pimp-and-grot show *The Life*, which has received a best-musical nomination. Our Robin Phillips staged *Jekyll and Hyde*, which hasn't. *Titanic*, which won a nomination, was directed by our Richard Jones and, of course, involves our very own boat. Only Kander and Ebb's *Steel Pier* (another finalist) and an odd collaboration between Duke Ellington and Shakespeare called *Play On!* (another reject) are under American command.

Which will turn out to be the winner on June 1? Don't expect a clear answer from my bruised eardrums and battered eyeballs, which are still recovering from what feels like a capsule nightmare in which Times Square hookers, marathon dancers and characters from *Twelfth Night* are chased around a doomed ship by a snarling Victorian with a club. All I can report is that the shows I saw ranged from quite good through passable to bad.

No, the last category does not include *Titanic* (Lunt-Fontanne), even though the title courts disaster and the set nearly achieved it at some previews by the perverse ruse of refusing to sink. Jones's staging, clearly indebted to Peter Stein's production of *The Hairy Ape*, creates an upstairs-downstairs feel by cutting horizontal slits, bridge to boiler-room, into a towering ship. As these begin to tilt there are memorable moments, too: the sudden silence in a complacent first-class lounge as a drinks trolley rolls by itself across the floor; the instantly repressed shock on the face of Allan Corduner's steward as someone whispers the real news into his ear.

Yet I spent some of the first half imploring that iceberg to get busy. A becalmed story needed a jolt. Moreover, the characters — tradesman and social-climbing wife, young lovers, John Jacob Astor and his latest hot property, the ship's dangerously pushy owner — are too thinly realised for us to care much about their fates. But Peter Stone's book and Maury Yeston's big-hearted music do leave us feeling both the magnificent hubris of 19th-century technological endeavour, and the nobility of those British upper lips as they stiffened in readiness for their watery graves.

But *Jekyll and Hyde* (Plymouth) does us no service at all. In Leslie Bricusse's reworking of Stevenson, the doctor is a pony-tailed idealist whose supposedly logical hope is to "integrate mind and emotion", "separate the functional from the dysfunctional" and somehow save his father, who lies naked and silently twitching in a madhouse. What follows is a mixture of earnest psychobabble and sentimental nonsense. One sci-fi cocktail, and the pony tail has swung across the head and over the face of Robert Cuccioli's chivalric Jekyll, changing him into Cuccioli's simian Hyde.

It is the best performance by a hunk of hair I've seen, but what follows lost me. No one tries to check Hyde as he serially murders "Rupert the 14th Bishop of Basingstoke" and the other all-English fogies and fops who have sneered at Jekyll's research. It is left to the good doctor to commit hara-kiri at his own wedding. Frank Wildhorn's *tunes have their moments*, but Bricusse's lyrics don't. I cannot confirm a friend's claim that the chorus of Cockneys sang "to kill someone outside St Paul's takes an awful lot of balls", but I certainly heard "murder, murder, it's a nightmare, murder, murder, it's a right scare, murder, murder, it's a cursed thing, murder, murder, it's the worst thing."

You expect Broadway to provide escapist fun; yet the odd thing is that the new batch of musicals close with mass drownings, suicide and, in two, other cases, emotional disaster. Still, both *Steel Pier* and *The Life* offer politically correct role models in the form of women who end up deserting male fiefdoms and stalking chin-up into the sunset.

The Life (Barrymore) is the better, though you may feel the subject-matter demands Brecht and Weill rather than Cy Coleman and partners. Still, *its portrait of the* 42nd Street reptile-house is surprisingly uncosy. The nice Vietnam vet who dreams of rescuing the girl who has gone on the game for his sake becomes a liar, cheat and swine; the innocent from the sticks turns out to be a cynical go-getter; there is genuine violence and a scene, almost equally shocking, in which *tawdry whores stand amid* rubbish and wire, forlornly bailing the kerb-crawlers. I'm not sure Coleman has the music or the wit to succeed in suggesting that pimping follows the laws and logic of the American marketplace; but it is a bold try.

> ❛ The best performance by a hunk of hair I've ever seen ❜

Steel Pier (Richard Rodgers) has the perky, hummable tunes you would expect from the team that created *Cabaret* and *Chicago*; but Kander and Ebb's portrait of a dance marathon in the Depression lacks the same bite. Too little is made of the moments in which "sponsors" throw money at *impoverished hoofers* trying to keep from collapsing after 100, 200, 500 hours on their feet. Indeed, the very brilliance of Susan Stroman's choreography becomes counter-productive. Surely there should be less whirling and twisting and more slumping and tottering as cramp and narcolepsy take their toll?

Moreover, the story at the centre is a dotty blend of *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?* and *Here Comes Mr Jordan*. Who is the cheerful, solid-looking chap who takes the floor with the dancer whose nasty, voracious husband won't let her quit? Why, the ghost of a crashed pilot on furlough from Heaven. By the time the chorus did a tap-number on the wings of a *biplane, I had, I fear*, given up believing in *Steel Pier*.

Not so with *Play On!* (Brooks Atkinson), which brings black Southern Vi to the Cotton Club and forces her to woo Lady Liv on behalf of a moony, song-writing Duke. Sound familiar? True, *Twelfth Night* didn't end with Olivia marrying Malvolio, as happens after some cursory fun. But I think the Bard, who had soul and a capacity for joy, wouldn't have felt too badly betrayed by Cheryl West's book, let alone Ellington's tunes and a cast that includes Cheryl Freeman, Tonya Pinkins and Andre de Shields. And if music be *I Got It Bad and That Ain't Good* — well, play on.

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament: NIKKI YEOH

Age: 23.

Profession: Islington born-and-bred jazz composer/pianist, already dubbed "the most exciting British jazz musician of her generation" and provoking comparisons to McCoy Tyner.

What's an intelligent young woman doing playing jazz? "I had saxophone lessons from Don Rendell and he sent me to the library and told me to look for anything by Miles Davis or John Coltrane. That was it, although I decided the piano felt more natural for me."

Work in progress? Her latest composition, *Speech Mik X-Ploration*, was premiered at the Bath Festival last month. Composed for a 12-piece band and video projection, the work also uses harmonisation of the spoken word in six different language translations of one of her poems.

How did she get this far? "I used to go to jam sessions at London's Jazz Cafe. Courtney Pine came down one day, heard me play and asked for my number." An invitation followed to join his band, which she did for two years.

And then? A tour with Neneh Cherry, forming her own trio; Infinitum, and a commission last year for the contemporary classical keyboard sextet, Piano Circus.

Surely women and jazz don't mix? "I'd like to change the way women are seen. Jazz is very male dominated and women are not really treated as equals. Yet."

Future plans? *"I'm ready to* record an album, which I have delayed. Being recognised as a composer has given me the confidence to record my own stuff."

Long-term ambition: "Oh, to keep improving as a band leader, a composer and a pianist. Anyone who takes their craft seriously wants to be the best."

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

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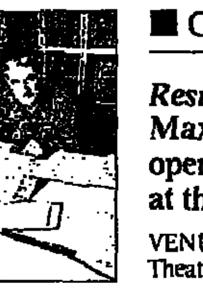
■ CHOICE 1

Playing for laughs: David Baddiel *tours* the country with his stand-up show

VENUE: Tonight at the Colston Hall, Bristol



■ CHOICE 2

Resurrection, Peter Maxwell Davies's opera, is performed at the Mayfest

VENUE: Tonight at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow

THE TIMES ARTS

■ THEATRE 1

At the Donmar Sam Mendes directs *The Fix*, a show that is all tunes and precious little plot

■ THEATRE 2

. . . but at the Young Vic Keatley's *My Mother Said I Never Should* comes up fresh

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

LONDON

MARAT/SADE Corin Redgrave plays Marat. David Calder is the Marquis and Anastasia Hille plays Charlotte Corday in Jeremy Sams's in-the-round production of the Peter Weiss drama
National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). *Opens tonight, 7pm*. Then tomorrow, 7.15pm. In rep with *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*

NATIONAL OPERA SHOWCASE Nicolette Molnar directs young opera singers in fully staged performances of excerpts from operas by Verdi, Donizetti, Janacek, Bellini and Massenet. Roy Laughlin conducts the Bournemouth Sinfonietta. Designs by Alison Nalder.
Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 7pm ♿

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC The orchestra celebrates its 50th anniversary season with the second of four programmes under the baton of its music director Daniele Gatti. The evening begins with two works by Strauss — *Till Eulenspiegel* and the lyrical Oboe Concerto (soloist Christopher Cowie). This year's Mendelssohn series continues with Symphony No 2, *Lobgesang*.
Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212). Tonight, 7.30pm ♿

ELSEWHERE

ABERYSTWYTH For one night only, **Think No Evil of Us . . . My Life with Kenneth Williams**, David Benson's semi-autobiographical show of the *Carry On* star. Winner of a Fringe First at *last year's Edinburgh Festival*.
Aberystwyth Arts Centre, Penglais (01970 623232). Tonight, 7.30pm

BIRMINGHAM: Rambert Dance Company's ongoing spring/summer tour includes Christopher Bruce's *Stream and Moonshine*, and a new ballet by Per Jonsson.
Repertory, Broad Street (0121-236 4455). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm. ♿

BRISTOL: The comedian and soccer pundit **David Baddiel**, who teamed up with Frank Skinner for the television series *Fantasy Football League, presents his first solo stand-up show*.
Colston Hall, Colston Street ♿ (0117 9223682). Tonight, 8pm. Then in **Cardiff**, Sherman (01222 230451), tomorrow; **Aberystwyth**, Arts Centre (01970 623232), Friday

EYE A double-bill of one-act comedies *by Bernard Shaw*. In **How He Lied to Her Husband**, a young man's love poems to an older woman fall into her husband's hands. In **Village Wooing**, a man surprises himself by agreeing to marry an irritating travelling companion. Both plays are directed by Tom Scott.
Eye, Broad Street (01379 871140). Opens tonight, 8pm. Then Tues-Sat, 8pm, mats Sat 4pm. Until May 24

GLASGOW Musiktheater Transparant and Wiener Taschenoper present Peter Maxwell Davies's opera, **Resurrection**, scored for soloists, chamber orchestra, rock band, brass band and electronic vocal quartet (Theatre Royal, tonight-*Sat, 8pm). In the Old Fruitmarket* (tonight and tomorrow, Fri-Sun, 7.30pm), singer **Terry Neason** and her band perform the best in country music.
Mayfest (0141-287 5000) for tickets and further information

LONDON GALLERIES

BAC: Blink, an exhibition by Gideon Gold and Sophie Newell (0171-223 2223). **Barbican**: Lucie Rie and Hans Coper *Potters in Parallel (0171-638 4141)*. **Catto**: Itzchak Tarkay (0171-435 6660). **Christopher Hull**: Ronos Loizou: Recent Paintings (0171-235 0500). **Curwen**: Paul Ryan — *"Entre-Nous"* (0171-636 1459). . **Harriet Green**: Graham Boyd and Helene Fesenmaier "The Azores Connection" (0171-287 8328). . **Jill George**: Duncan Bullen "Isola" Paintings, Drawings and Monoprints (0171-439 7319). **National Portrait**: August Sander (0171-306 0055). . **Robert Prime**: Martin Maloney (0171-916 6366). **V & A**: The Cutting Edge: Fifty Years of British Fashion *(0171-938 8349/8441)*

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
▨ Some seats available
☐ Seats at all prices

☐ THE CRITICS — UP FOR REVIEW: Four theatre critics, including the assessor for this guide, hazard their reputation by directing. *Michael* Billington chooses Strindberg's *The Stronger* and Pinter's *The Lover*, James Christopher tackles Robert Young's *The Shoe Shop of Desire*, Nicholas de Jongh directs Anouilh's *The Traveller Without Luggage*, and Jeremy Kingston goes for Michel Tremblay's *Albertine in Five Times*
BAC Main House and Studios 1 and 2, Lavender Hill, SW11 (0171-223 2223). *Tue-Sat, mats Sun, various times*. For details ring box office. Until August 27

☐ DONA ROSITA Phoebe Nicholls *plays the patient spinster, pointlessly* hopeful, but then this is Lorca. Eleanor Bron, Kathryn Hunter, Celia Imrie, Kerry Shale, Clive Swift also feature in *Phyllida Lloyd's production*
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 3pm. Until June 7

☐ LADY WINDERMERE'S FAN: Braham Murray's production of Wilde. Gabrielle Drake plays the woman with a past, Rebecca Johnson the virtuous wife without a mother
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. Until June 28

☐ THE MAI Dublin prizewinner by Marina Carr, author of the haunting *Portia Coughlan*. Four generations of women whose lives men have variously disrupted. Nicolas Kent directs.
Tricycle, 269 Kilburn High Road, NW6 (0171-328 1000). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Sat, 4pm. Until June 7

☐ MARLENE Siân Phillips gives an attractive performance as the singer with the golden sheath dress. On the whole, more successful than Pam Gems's play
Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

☐ MASTER CLASS Patti LuPone recreates her Broadway role as Maria Callas in Terrence McNally's Tony-winning play where the great diva puts opera singers through their paces
Queen's, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 *(0171-494 5040). Tue-Sat, 8pm, mats* Wed and Sat, 3pm

☐ SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE: Subtitled *"The Songs of Leiber and Stoller"*. Hit Broadway compilation show celebrating a successful songwriting team, responsible for *Hound Dog, Jailhouse Rock and Spanish Harlem*
Prince of Wales, Coventry Street, W1 (0171-839 5987). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm

▨ TOM AND CLEM: Stimulating play with Alec McCowen and Michael Gambon as sober Attlee and flamboyant Driberg sorting out the world at Potsdam
Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6007). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and *Sat, 3pm*

☐ THE YEATS SEASON: Damned Poets Co present five short plays, *including his famous On Baile's Strand* and *The Dreaming of the Bones*, influenced by Noh Theatre. Two separate programmes but all five can be seen on Thursdays and Saturdays.
Pentameters, 28 Heath Street, Hampstead, NW3 (0171-435 3648). Previews begin tonight, 8pm. Opens tomorrow, 7pm. Then Tue, Wed and Sun, 8pm, Thurs and Sat 7pm. Until June 8

LONG RUNNERS

☐ Blood Brothers: Phoenix (0171-369 1733) . . **▨ Buddy**: Strand (0171-930 8800) . . **☐ The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)**: Criterion (0171-369 1737) . . **▨ Miss Saigon**: *Drury Lane (0171-494 5400)* **☐ The Mousetrap**: St Martin's (0171-836 1443) . . **☐ Oliver!**: Palladium (0171-494 5020) . . **■ The Phantom of the Opera**: Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400) . . **☐ Starlight Express**: Apollo Victoria (0171-416 6054) . . **▨ The Woman in Black**: Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ ANACONDA (15): Silly fun in the rainforest with Jennifer Lopez, Jon Voight, and an unconvincing giant snake. Director, Luis Llosa
Greenwich (0181-235 3005) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Leicester Square** (0181-315 4215) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 *888990) **Virgin Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636)*

CRYING FREEMAN (18): Heavily stylised gang war thriller, adapted from a Japanese comic book, with Mark Dacascos and Julie Condra Douglas. Director, Christophe Gans
ABC Piccadilly *(0171-437 3561)*

◆ GHOSTS FROM THE PAST (15): Simplistic race relations drama, with Alec Baldwin and James Woods. Director, Rob Reiner
Odeon Swiss Cottage (0181-315 4220) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990-888 990) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

KIDS RETURN Delinquents turn *boxers. Thoughtful, partly* autobiographical film from Japanese cult director Takeshi Kitano
ICA Cinema (0171-930 3647)

KOLYA (12): Confirmed bachelor is lumbered with a five-year-old boy. Enchanting Czech Oscar-winner directed by Jan Sverak
Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720) **Gate** ♿ (0171-727 4043) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** *(0171-935 2772)*

***MOLL FLANDERS** (12)*: *Robin Wright* survives 18th-century London. Dull variation on Defoe's novel, written and directed by Pen Densham
ABC Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-836 6279)

CURRENT

THE ADDICTION (18): Quirky and compelling vampire tale from Abel Ferrara, with Lili Taylor
Metro (0171-437 0757)

◆ DONNIE BRASCO (18): FBI agent Johnny Depp befriends Mafia wiseguy Al Pacino. Thoughtful gangster saga.
ABC Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Barbican** ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Notting Hill Coronet** ♿ (0171-727 6705) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) ***Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220)* **West End** (0181-315 4221) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096)

◆ THE ENGLISH PATIENT (15): *Map-making Ralph Fiennes smoulders with* passion for Kristin Scott Thomas. Epic, intelligent, though not quite worth all the praise. Director, Anthony Minghella
Greenwich (0181-235 3005) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Mezzanine** ♿ (0181-315 4215) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Plaza** (0990-888 990) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990-888 990) **Virgin Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

FEMALE PERVERSIONS (18): Tilda Swinton's lawyer faces an identity crisis. Striking American feminist film, directed by Susan Streitfeld
ABCs: Piccadilly (0171-437 3561) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148)

MARGARET'S MUSEUM (15): Helena Bonham Carter suffers in a Nova Scotia mining community. So do we. Director, Mort Ransen
ABC Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-836 6279) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323)

VERTIGO (PG): Restored print of Hitchcock's hypnotic thriller, with James Stewart and Kim Novak
Lumiere (0171-836 0691)

◆ WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S ROMEO + JULIET (12): Effervescent contemporary treatment, with Leonardo DiCaprio and Claire Danes as the star-crossed lovers. Director, Baz Luhrmann
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Mezzanine** ♿ (0181-315 4215) **Plaza** ♿ (0990 888990) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ *(0990 888990)* **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

THEATRE: New musical gets off on the wrong note; worthy revival of a generational gem

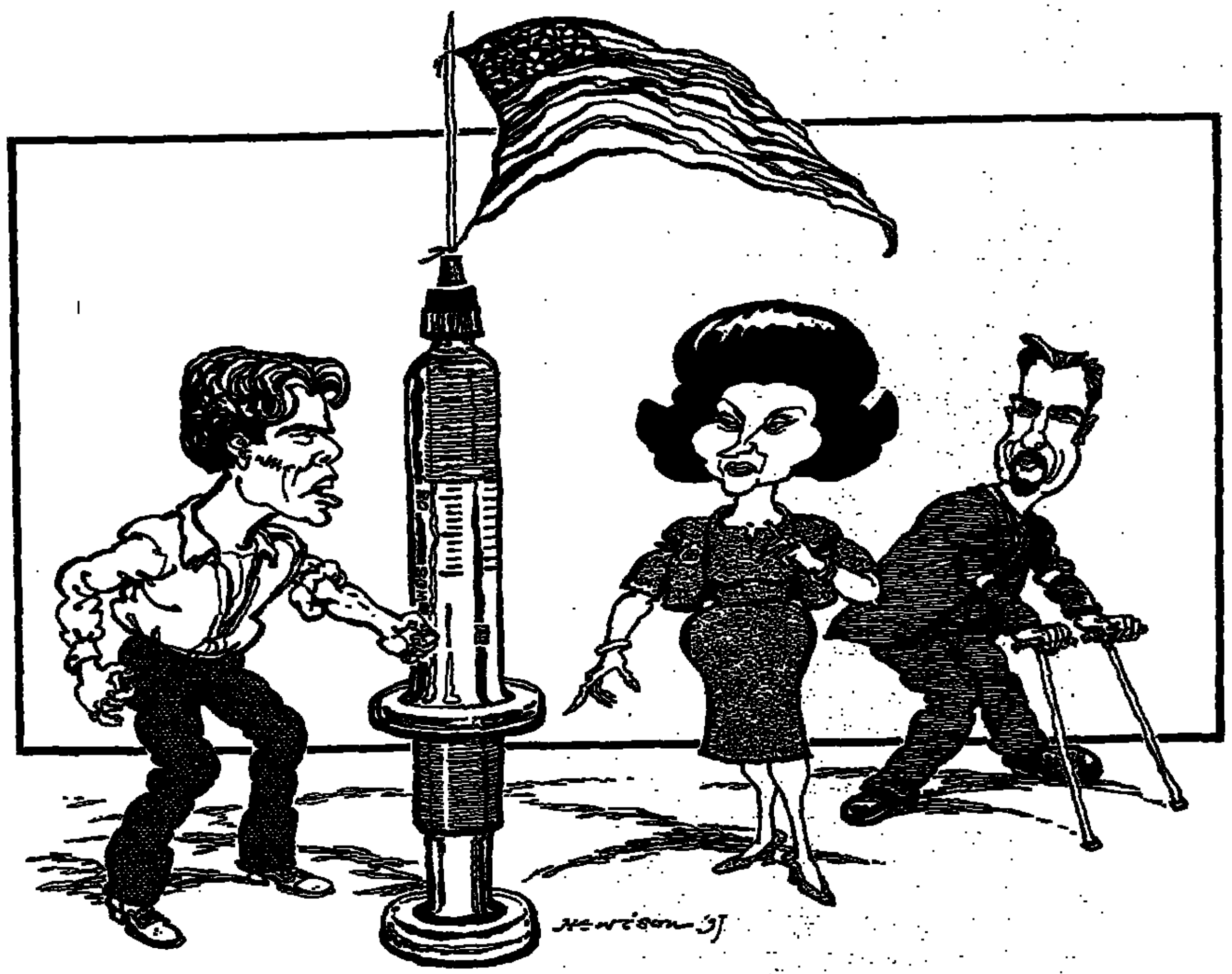
Bold, brash and banal

When a cassette of this show landed on their desks, Cameron Mackintosh and Sam Mendes probably felt the way publishers do when they spot a glint of creative gold in the slush pile. Dana Rowe's music has plenty of brash attack, as well as slithery, *sinister percussive effects*. John Dempsey's lyrics are often sharp and clever. It must have seemed that two American unknowns had created a score well suited to a tale of fixes narcotic, fixes political, and fixes both at once.

The Fix
Donmar

But did either the impresario or the director take a hard look at the bits of paper that accompanied the cassette? Did they ponder that not-unimportant ingredient, the book? Musicals are never more naked than when they are fully embodied on the stage, and, as *the music* bangs boldly and arrestingly on, it becomes ever clearer that the plot of *The Fix* lacks wit, imagination and plausibility.

Always mistrust shows with lots of unsmiling men in black suits wearing dark glasses. *Some of those on display here* also have black hats, black shirts and white ties. That is Mendes's oddly artless way of signalling that they are mafiosi. But more often they seem to be government lackeys, bodyguards, journalists — or, as at *the start, upscale* Washingtonians at an important funeral.



John Barrowman, Kathryn Evans and Philip Quast are dogged by a poor plot that lacks wit and imagination

The figure in the flag-draped coffin is Reed Chandler, a presidential hopeful who has died of a heart attack while cavorting with what his ghost later describes as a lady with great breasts. *And are his* pushy wife (Kathryn Evans) and his bitter, crippled brother (Philip Quast) content to let the dynasty rest in peace? On the contrary, they promptly organise a pretty, dippy bride, a voice coach and a trademark *song about youth and the* future for Reed's son. John Barrowman's affable Cal is to be city councillor, governor, and more.

As satires of packaging-the-president go, this is not very inventive stuff, but it is more *credible than what follows*. Cal gets off with a nightclub floozy (Krysten Cummings) and is soon shooting heroin as well as snorting cocaine. We must believe that he gets plus marks for honesty when he drops four-letter words in *public* and urinates on the state courthouse, and that he can remain a political contender after disappearing to what his aides pretend is a long European holiday and he reveals at a press conference to have been a detox ward. *"Alleluia," sing the journalists* as the lad announces "the biggest drug campaign this state has seen". *Oh well*, any country that continues to revere the Kennedy clan and can re-elect Marion Barry as Mayor of Washington is a pretty weird one. That is what the Chandler story is presumably supposed to leave us thinking. But it is *still hard* to take the evening seriously. Why do the men in black start cavorting about in red noses? What's achieved by half-heartedly suggesting that the all-American Richard III, Quast's Grahame Chandler, has the hots for his nephew? *Isn't it cheap suddenly to* transform Cummings's Tina into Monroe in iconic white swirling skirt?

Moreover, shouldn't we care more about Cal's fate? I left the Donmar hoping that Dempsey and Rowe would *keep composing musicals, but* thinking they had some way to go before they could be counted full professionals of the genre.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

The best saved for first

My Mother Said I Never Should
Young Vic

AT THE age of 27 Charlotte Keatley *wrote* a play that marked her out as a female dramatist of unusual promise. Full of anger and instinct, she wriggled under the skin of four generations of mothers in the same family to explore the relationship between mother, wife, a Sixties free spirit and a daughter. Several of these insights cut *to the bone*.

Ten years on it is a joy to see it revived by Oxford Stage Company, but one wonders if the same play has stopped a brilliant career dead in its tracks. Crippled, perhaps, by the weight of expectation. Keatley has never produced anything of similar quality and is evidently happy to ride the waves the play has generated in 18 languages. Who wouldn't? But it *seems odd, almost wasteful, that she* has yet to write the stack of contemporary classics that seemed so obviously *within her grasp*.

This is not to belittle this production. Four actresses, dressed in garb from the war years to the present day, are first seen as small children frightening each other by invoking spirits from beyond the grave. From *this surreal beginning they spin into character as the four generations of* women. The never-present fathers *haunt the play like ghosts. In short*, charged scenes played out around a piano under which Grace Mitchell's compelling Doris used to tuck her daughter Margaret during the Blitz, we see telling glimpses of the relationship between the mothers and daughters.

It is a telescope of changing times and fears. While Jane Lowe's Margaret falls for an American pilot and life in London, her art school daughter Jackie (Robyn Moore) is tuning into the Sixties. Likewise, Pauline Lynch's adolescent Rose, the last in line, would like to rebel against her parents, but *does not realise that her real mother is* not, in fact, Margaret, but her "older sister". It is Jackie's indecision about revealing and reclaiming Rose that steals the play. As Jackie's career takes off, her mother, Margaret (a wonder*ful performance* from Lowe) becomes steadily more entrenched on the moral high ground.

The power of the piece is that basic conflict. The rest of Dominic Cooke's production struggles to interact with it. Surreal interruptions, when the actresses revert to their childish selves, *feel imposed rather than part of the* narrative. That essential piece of alchemy between the surreal and the naturalistic is mislaid. But the performances provide ample compensation on Robert Innes Hopkin's coffin-lid set, with its beautiful moodscapes projected on to a vast screen.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

ART GALLERIES

PARKIN GALLERY 23 Apr-23 May The Judge Hangs - a selection by **Sir Stephen Tumim** 11 Motcomb St SW1 0171 235 8144

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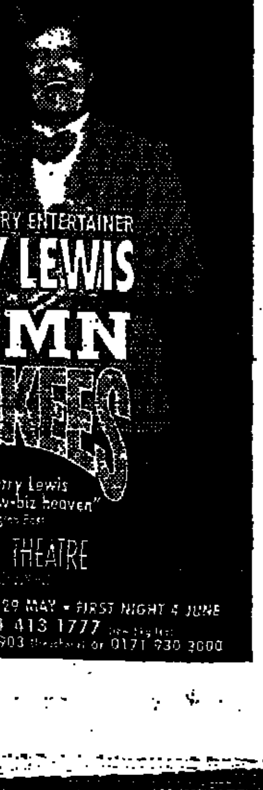
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■ FILM

Fighting fit: after heart surgery Edward Woodward leads his entire family in a new TV project

■ MUSIC 1

Valery Gergiev steers his Kirov Opera into pastures new, and that includes Wagner

THE TIMES ARTS

■ MUSIC 2

A Stockhausen classic is included in the London Sinfonietta's German show

■ TOMORROW

Does Muhammad Ali's life make compelling cinema? Read Geoff Brown on the new films

Can't see the fees for the Woodwards

Why are top TV star Edward and his family doing a costume swashbuckler for nothing? **Victoria McKee** reports

Edward Woodward is fighting fit after undergoing a triple bypass eight months ago. Two stone lighter, the 67-year-old actor is hearty enough to ride a horse through the portico of a stately home, scattering enemies with his sword as he gallops by, and to duel his way up and down a marble staircase.

Such derring-do is de rigueur for his latest role in his son Peter's saga about the Angelo dynasty of "fightmasters" in a period drama pilot that could lead, the Woodward acting dynasty hopes, to a television series.

The Angelos, who ran an "Academy of Arms" in the 18th century in what is now London's Soho, came to Britain from Italy to teach swordplay, riding and shooting to gentlefolk. Dominic Angelo, played by Edward Woodward, had a son called Harry (played by Peter), "who became a great friend of the Prince Regent and of David Garrick and kept the family business going into the 19th century", Peter says, during a break from two weeks' filming at the National Trust's Phillips House near Salisbury, which economically serves as both the arms academy and the court of King George III.

Originally to be called *The Fightmaster*, the title of the pilot episode, the series has now been tentatively titled *House of Angelo*, a name which, some cast members feel, sounds unfortunately like that of a hairdressing salon. It was chosen to appeal to American sensibilities, since that is where British costume dramas can really make a killing. With Edward still popular in America after the hit television series *The Equalizer*, that was an important consideration. But the name could still change, as could the screening dates — currently set for late August/early September, initially on BSkyB, then on the BBC.

"I can't tell you what a fight it was even to try to get this put on," says Edward, puffing slightly after his efforts and putting on a pair of spectacles that make him look, in shoulder-length grey wig, knee breeches, embroidered waistcoat and frock coat, rather like Benjamin Franklin. "It was like trying to invent the lightbulb."

The film is crammed with Woodwards. As well as Peter, 38, the main creative force behind the project, Edward's two other children from his first marriage to the actress Venetia Barratt — Tim, 44, and Sarah, 34 — are involved, and his 14-year-old daughter Emily, from his present marriage to actress Michele Dotrice (the only immediate family member without a role, "although I hope she'll have one if it goes to series"), has had a walk-on part.

> ❛ I can't tell you what a fight it was to try to get this put on ❜

Peter's wife Anne-Marie Marriott and Sarah's partner Patrick Toomey have roles, as do good friends Julian Glover and his wife Isla Blair. They play Sir Robert Willoughby and the actress Peg Wallington, who has to ride a horse up the stairs sidesaddle and also has some action scenes with a sword. They hope to bring their actor son Jamie into the series eventually, too.

"Even the electricians are all from the same family," Peter says. The director is Jim Goddard, with whom Edward also worked on *Callan*, the series that made him famous 30 years ago.

It's a closely knit group, with everyone slightly protective of Edward. "We had a fully costumed and made-up stunt double standing by for all Edward's action scenes," says Peter. "But we never needed him."

The other advantage of a cast composed primarily of family and friends is that it is willing to work for low wages, a vital advantage when funding was so hard to come by. "The Woodwards have deferred all fees and are not taking anything until the production breaks even," says Peter. "And all the principal artists — our mates — have accepted minimum rates. We believe very strongly in what we're doing, but we also believe that this is a terrible way to have to go about things. If we didn't have these resources to call on it wouldn't be made, so there must be a lot of wonderful potential projects around which aren't being made."

"Nobody's *committing* in television today," Edward says about the medium he calls "the greatest form of entertainment in the world," and in which he has chosen to spend the lion's share of his 50-year career. "They all want to see a pilot first. With 'in-house' productions you knew where the money was coming from, and where profits would be made. Now there are so many little independent companies, like ours, who have to fight for everything."

Luckily the Woodwards are skilled fighters, as they deftly demonstrate with sword, dagger and musket. They don't give up easily. Peter sent scores of scripts out to different companies, mainly in North America, together with a glossy brochure about the Angelo and Woodward dynasties. Finally Atlantis, a Canadian distribution agency, bit — but then withdrew. So New Zealander Don Reynolds, who had championed the project, left Atlantis to become a third musketeer with Peter and Edward, and Atlantis later came back on board with a third of the funds for the £1 million pilot. A third is being provided by the Woodwards themselves — "I've put all my savings into this," Peter says — and a third by the BBC and Sky together, in what the Woodwards believe is the first joint venture of the terrestrial and satellite networks. "We haven't even *met* anyone from the BBC yet. Nobody seems to know we're doing this, although we're doing this with their money," Edward says.

With Reynolds shaving his beard and shaking off his accent to play George III, it's a case of all for one and one for all in this swashbuckling saga "set in an age," Peter says, "when revolution was in the air and there was a change from men in tights and wigs to those in boots and breeches".

Peter, who intends to continue making his living "by the pen *and* the sword", is an actor, playwright and fightmaster who has choreographed fights for the Royal Shakespeare Company and English National Opera. "He used to swing a sword with me from the time he was two years old," Edward says proudly.

Peter also acts as "armourer" on the production, locking the Brown Besses and other 18th-century muskets away carefully after each day's action. He realised the dramatic potential of the Angelo family of fightmasters when reading a copy of Dominic Angelo's 18th-century fight manual, *The School of Arms*, at the British Museum.

The Angelo family is one family that the Woodwards haven't involved so far in *The House of Angelo*. "I've tried to trace some Angelos, but so far haven't had any luck," Peter says. They may, of course, come out of the woodwork when the series is aired, and he hopes they will accept that he has used dramatic licence in portraying their ancestors.

LES WILSON

(From left) Tim, Sarah, Edward and Peter Woodward on set for their television pilot *The Fightmaster*

OPERA: **John Allison** acclaims the Kirov Opera's production of *Parsifal*

A little late, Russia learns to love Wagner

Of all Russian paradoxes, the Kirov Opera of St Petersburg is one of the most remarkable. It represents the best cultural traditions of the old pre- and post-revolutionary order, but is also among the few institutions to have made something positive of the "new" Russia.

While the rest of the country fumbles ever more uncertainly, there is an energy about the Kirov Opera, a feeling that anything is possible. Indeed, it seems to be: another piece of history was made on Sunday when Wagner's *Parsifal* was performed for the first time in Russia in almost 80 years.

This energy is all being generated by Valery Gergiev who, as chief of the Maryinsky Theatre, now controls both ballet and opera there. He has recently tightened up working practices, and by his own admission is stricter than ever with the artists. He has to be. They are the company's most precious resource.

His lobbying of the Government, even President Yeltsin personally, ensures that the company still receives some state funding, but it covers less than 20 per cent of total needs and at best is unreliable. In a country where the President can go on television at Easter and wish the nation a happy Christmas, nothing can be guaranteed. Russian sponsors are beginning to come forward, but Gergiev is clear: "The best budget is people, so I have to keep them here."

Gergiev is also broadening the work of the theatre as never before. Works by Verdi, Strauss, Mozart and Bizet have all made a comeback in their original languages. But Gergiev's biggest aim has been to reintroduce Wagner, and with *Parsifal* now achieved, he plans *Der fliegende Holländer* next year. Russia once had a great Wagner tradition, but anti-German sentiment after the Second World War and the strictures of Stalin's musical thought-police combined to leave a big, Wagner-shaped hole in the repertory.

This new *Parsifal* was almost a Russian premiere: after the embargo on the opera being given outside "sacred" Bayreuth was lifted in 1913, *Parsifal* was produced at St Petersburg's privately-run Theatre of Musical Drama. But it never reached one of the country's major stages. Then came the revolution, and the opera's religious, or pseudo-religious, subject matter was too much for the communists. During the Soviet era a production was never even mooted.

The opening night was thus an important event in the theatre's history, but what made it so memorable was the burning intensity of the orchestral playing under Gergiev. As his Covent Garden *Lohengrin* proved, this conductor has a special affinity for Wagner, and here he caught the score's ecstatic beauty and all the pain too.

Each act was carefully paced, and the performance swept along compellingly. The Kirov Orchestra's rich strings and blazing brass sounded thrilling. This was an idiomatic, world-class account in a theatre without a living Wagner tradition.

Russianness was more strongly revealed in sets by the late Yevgeny Lysyk, originally designed for a *Lohengrin* that didn't happen, but evoking a beautiful, generalised medievalism that would do for any mystical opera. The producer was Tony Palmer, not so fondly remembered for turning a Scottish Opera *Turandot* into a Puccini family saga. But here he spared us the horrors of Familie Wagner. In spite of clumsy ideas like processions through the auditorium and copious amounts of "atmospheric" dry ice, the production summoned up most of the opera's magic and the cast was strongly directed.

Indeed, Gurnemanz was *not* his usual, boring self, but a character with real aura, movingly sung by Gennady Bezzubenkov. Valeria Stenkina, an astonishingly young Kundry, had all the wild sensuality required. Alexey Steblianko was an imposing, dark-toned Parsifal, and Nikolay Putilin a vivid Klingsor. The chorus was on splendid form, and all the smaller roles were cast astonishingly well, from strength that must be the envy of every other opera house.

The previous evening's *Ruslan and Lyudmila* explained why, since one of the *Parsifal* Flowermaidens, Anna Netrebko, had given an unforgettable performance as Lyudmila. Netrebko, whose perfectly focused soprano is matched by the looks of a fairy-tale princess, was an ideal heroine, but she was not the only outstanding singer in a cast that included Valentina Tsidipova (Gorislava) and Larissa Diadkova (Ratmir). Glinka's opera is one of the company's showpieces, brought to spirited life by Gergiev's conducting, storybook designs and Fokine's choreography. With a fully integrated ballet, it is an opera to which only the Kirov can do full justice, and one which shows the "traditional" side of Gergiev's vision.

Wall bar exercises

CONCERT

London Sinfonietta/ Zender
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Post War, Post Wall is the London Sinfonietta's two-part exploration of a half-century of German music. The postwar upheaval began, as the British composer Julian Anderson notes in an illuminating programme essay, with a head-on collision between the hardline serialists and the conservatives.

Saturday's concert began with a representative and hugely influential work from the early 1950s: Stockhausen's *Kontrapunkte*. If this kind of score no longer seems "difficult", it is partly because Stockhausen's lead has been followed by so many composers of the modern era. But much credit is due to the accomplished performances of ensembles like the Sinfonietta who, here under the direction of Hans Zender, delivered the piece with wonderfully controlled delicacy. Rarely have the fragmentary utterances cohered so seamlessly and with such a persuasive sense of flow, providing a subtle backdrop for the brilliantly executed solo statements of pianist John Constable.

Inhabiting a more specific dreamworld, Wilhelm Killmayer's *Sinfonia 2: Ricordanze* evoked the *Memories* of the subtitle with a superbly evocative, and extraordinarily economical, sound palette.

Zender's own *Furin No Kyo*, though written as recently as 1989, suggested a throwback to a less profitable mode of fragmentation. The text, declaimed in four languages with impressive equanimity by Julie Moffat, is broken down into somewhat tiresome syllabic ejaculations — though apparently with ironic, occasionally humorous intent.

Perverse word-setting, equally skilfully delivered by Moffat, was similarly a feature of Bernd Alois Zimmermann's cantata *Omnia Tempus Habent*. In 1957, when this cantata was written, Zimmermann was ploughing an individual furrow. Yet to come was his distinctive "collage" style, resulting in such masterpieces as *Die Soldaten* and the trumpet concerto *Nobody Knows De Trouble I See*.

It was a trumpet piece — York Höller's *Fanal* — that we heard immediately after. The image of a flame, leaping high or slowly dying, lies behind the work, and John Wallace's account was a brilliant pyrotechnical display. The music of Höller — and this work in particular — deserves to be heard much more often.

BARRY MILLINGTON

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THE TIMES Virgin TOKEN 3

CHANGING TIMES

هكذا من الاصل

Law Report May 14 1997 Court of Appeal

Crown Court judge erred over jurors' alleged contempt

Regina v Schot
Regina v Barclay

Before Lord Justice Rose, Mr Justice Forbes and Mr Justice Keene

[Judgment May 12]

The Court of Appeal considered the circumstances in which a juror might be found guilty of contempt of court and the procedure to be followed to deal with such circumstances.

Their Lordships allowed the appeals of Bonnie Belinda Schot and Carol Andrea Barclay against the finding on March 24, 1997 at *Knightsbridge Crown Court* by Judge Cooray that they were in contempt of court, on which they were *sentenced to 30 days* imprisonment. On March 25 both appellants were granted bail.

Mr John Perry QC, who did not appear below, and Mr Leroy Redhead for Schot; Mr Stephen Solley, QC, who did not appear below, and Mr Navjot Sidhu for Barclay, all counsel assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals; Mr David Pannick, QC, as amicus curiae.

LORD JUSTICE ROSE, giving the judgment of the court, said that *on February 17, 1997 proceedings* began at Knightsbridge Crown Court before Judge Cooray in a *case in which five defendants were* charged with having custody or control of a counterfeit note. On *February 19 a jury was sworn to* try the case. The appellants were two of the jurors.

On March 12 *the jury retired* and some time later sent a note to the judge which read: "We are unable to come to any decisions owing to some jurors conscious beliefs. Please advise."

The judge and counsel discussed the note and the jury was brought back and asked to clarify what was meant by "conscious beliefs" by writing a further note through the foreman, who was the appellant Schot.

The further note read: "Some *members of the jury cannot bring* themselves to make a true judgment due to our beliefs, not *religious but personal.* At the beginning of the trial, before we took the oath we felt that we could not stand up in the court and stress this fact. We thought that our feelings may change over time. After retiring we have found that we still feel the same and cannot give a true verdict to these defendants."

There was further discussion in the absence of the jury, after which the judge decided to discharge the jury in its entirety. Before doing so he asked the jurors to write down the names of the members to whom the second note related. The jury retired again and returned with the names of the two appellants.

Thereafter, the judge discharged the jury and told the appellants to return to court on March 24 to show cause why they should not be fined for contempt.

Their Lordships sympathised with the judge in having to deal with a very unusual situation, but in their judgment he fell into a sequence of errors.

1 It was doubtful whether it was proper for him to seek written clarification of the phrase "conscious beliefs". In any event he ought not, on receipt of the second *note, to have decided then to* discharge the jury.

It seemed to their Lordships, albeit with the advantage of hindsight, that assuming the second note was properly elicited and received, the judge ought to have sought in writing not the names *but the numbers* of jurors who were having difficulties.

It would then have been possible, *with the assistance* of further submissions from counsel, to decide what course to take and, in particular, *whether it was necessary* to discharge the whole jury or whether to give them a majority direction and a direction not amounting to a full *Watson* direction (see ([1988] QB 690)) but stressing the importance of the oath taken and reminding them of their obligation to bring in a verdict of guilty if they were sure but otherwise not guilty, and incorporating the matters referred to by Lord Justice Watkins in *R v Guildford Crown Court, Ex parte Siderfin* ([1990] 2 QB 683).

Alternatively, once the judge had ascertained that difficulties arose in relation to only two jurors he could have discharged them under section 16(1) of the Juries Act 1974. Had any of these courses been followed it would not have been necessary to abort the trial at that stage.

2 In any event, their Lordships doubted whether the judge should *have sought clarification of the* first note, and certainly he should not have asked for the names of the jurors to whom the second note related.

Such requests were in breach of the widely expressed terms of section 8(1) of the Contempt of Court Act 1981, which applied to the court as well as everyone else, and of the long established and recently re-affirmed principle that there was no right in anyone to inquire as to what occurred in the jury room: see, for example, *Andrew Brown* ([1907] 7 NSW St Rep 291) and *R v Thompson* ([1962] 1 All ER 65).

3 The Juries Act 1974 did not provide for exemption from jury service on the basis of personal conscientious beliefs, nor did the jury summons, the explanatory leaflet or the video shown to all jurors suggest that that might afford exemption.

There was, however, a discretionary power within section 9(4) of the 1974 Act to excuse from jury service and, in the light of *Practice Direction (Jury Service: Excusal)* ([1988] WLR 1162), the question to be asked when considering an application for excusal was whether the beliefs of the juror prevented him or her from fulfilling properly, responsibly and honestly his or her duties as a member of a jury: see *Siderfin.*

Their Lordships thought it desirable that consideration be given to amending the summons or other information for jurors so as to incorporate some reference to the possibility, referred to in the *Practice Direction* that a person *might* be excused on ground of conscientious objection to jury service.

4 Although a juror properly empanelled was not accountable for anything said or done by him in discharge of his office (*Halsbury's Laws of England* (4th edition, volume 26, paragraph 653)) was not punishable for contempt for returning a perverse verdict (see *Bushell's Case* ((1670) 6 State Trials 999)) and was not indictable for breaking his oath as a juror (*Hawkins Pleas of the Crown* ((1824) 8th edition p432)) it was a different matter where a juror would "wilfully not find for either side".

In such a case a juror was finable: see *Bushell's Case* (at p1014). *Hawkins Pleas of the Crown* (Volume 2, p213) stated that it was an offence for a juror to refuse to give a verdict.

Accordingly, contumacious refusal to reach a verdict because of reluctance to judge another might in appropriate circumstances establish the actus reus of contempt but the mens rea, namely an intention to impede or create a real risk of prejudicing the administration of justice, had also to also be proved: see *Attorney-General v Sport Newspapers Ltd* ([1991] 1 WLR 1194).

It could be established by foreseeability of consequence, but the judge in the present case did not appear to have given any consideration to that save to say: "Both of them in their own way have intentionally disrupted the entire trial by their refusal".

In the light of Barclay's evidence *that she did not want to disrupt the* court's process or be disrespectful towards the court and Schot's evidence that she wanted or had tried to reach a verdict, that was a difficult conclusion to sustain in the absence of any finding by the judge that he rejected that evidence.

Also *it was questionable* whether the judge's decisicon to discharge the entire jury was properly to be regarded as a foreseeable consequence of one or two jurors refusing, if they did, to reach a verdict, so as to establish the necessary mens rea.

Further, the jury's first note sought advice, which was never given. The seeking of advice was not *generally likely, it seemed to* their Lordships, to support an inference of intention to disrupt a trial.

Unfortunately, none of the authorities or principles referred to their Lordships was cited or addressed in the course of the hearing before the judge, which was no doubt due in part to the fact that counsel were instructed to represent the appellants only on the morning of the hearing, and in part to the "summary" character, as the judge described it, of the hearings before him.

On any view this was a highly unusual case which required careful consideration by those advising the appellant. Legal representation whereby counsel at court for other purposes were assigned to the appellants on the morning of and shortly before the hearing was not, in their Lordships' judgment, adequate or appropriate.

It appeared to have been assumed that it was for the appellants to show cause, by evidence, that they were not in contempt.

5 There was no urgent and imperative need for the judge to deal with the question of contempt himself and there was, in any event, a real danger of bias (see *R v Gough* ([1993] AC 646)) *in view of* what he had said on March 12.

He had expressed surprise, disappointment, bitterness and anger, and said twice, in terms, that the jurors had shown direct contempt; the further proceedings which he contemplated were to *show cause* "why they ought not to be fined."

Particularly in the light of those comments, the trial judge should either have referred the matter to another senior judge sitting at that or another crown court or to the Attorney-General to apply on motion in accordance with Order 52 of the Rules of the Supreme Court: see, for example, *Balogh v St Albans Crown Court* ([1975] 1 QB 73).

On the very rare occasions *where the possibility* of contempt by a juror arose, it might well be appropriate, where the judge had *given no indication* of having formed a view or otherwise behaved in such a way as to suggest *the possibility of bias, for him to* deal with the matter himself, but it would depend on all the circumstances of *the particular case.*

6 In his conlusions, the judge drew no distinction between the two appellants, although their cases were different.

If Schot's evidence was correct she was not guilty of contempt. The judge made no express finding as to whether or not he believed her evidence. Accordingly, it would be impossible to uphold his finding of contempt against her.

As to Barclay, the conclusion that she was in contempt, on the basis that she did not like to judge other people and should have disclosed that at an earlier stage and had played no part in the jury's discussions, might well have been sustainable if reached by *another judge in other* circumstances.

7 The nature of this contempt was never clearly defined in a manner which was essential for a proper *inquiry.*

For those reasons the findings of contempt would be quashed. However, in any *event, their Lordships* indicated their view that the sentence of imprisonment was not appropriate.

Trial by jury was one of the corner stones of our democracy. Its operation in this country was dependent on the participation and co-operation of the public and most members of the public recognised that if summoned for jury service and sworn it was a service whey they had to perform honestly and to the best of their ability.

But it had to be be recognised that if members of the public had been summoned for jury service *and properly empanelled* without making any reasonable objection, they were at risk if they failed to act *in accordance with the oath which* they had sworn, to "faithfully try the defendant and give a true verdict according *to the evidence*".

Solicitor: Treasury Solicitor.

Eliminating excess documents

Practice Direction (Court of Appeal: Revised procedure)

The Court of Appeal continued to be very concerned about the volume of documentation lodged for *the purposes of appeals* and applications which was unnecessary and never referred to. *Changes designed to eliminate* such practices would be introduced.

Following the increase in the number of lord justices there had been some reduction in the time between the lodging and hearing of appeals and new hear by dates would apply.

Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, sitting with Lord Justice Hutchison and Lord Justice Mummery, so stated in the Court of Appeal on May 12.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that under *Practice Direction (Court of Appeal: Procedure)* ([1995] 1 WLR 1191), core bundles were required where the appeal bundle, excluding the judgment appealed against, would comprise more than 100 pages. In such cases, the obligation on the appellant's solicitor was to lodge the requisite number of sets of the core bundles plus one set of the full trial bundles for reference.

In some instances the core *bundles had contained far more documentation than was necessary* for the purposes of determining the appeal. In others, *the core bundles did not contain all* the necessary documentation and multiple sets of trial bundles were also lodged.

The changes set out below were designed to eliminate those practices and to ensure that the court was provided solely with core bundles which contained only the documents which were relevant and necessary, no more and no less, for determining the appeal or application.

Following the recent increase in *the number of lord justices, there* had been some reduction in the time lag between the lodging and *hearing of appeals. In consequence* the hear by dates for most types of appeal could now be brought forward. The new *hear by dates* were set out below.

Core bundles

1 Paragraphs 2 to 6 below modified Part II of the 1995 *Practice Direction with effect from the date* specified in paragraph 7.

2 In all cases where the appellant or applicant was represented only core bundles were to be lodged without any trial or other bundles.

3 Core bundles must contain only those documents which the lord justices would need to pre-read or *to which it would be necessary to* refer at the hearing, either in support of, or in opposition to the appeal or application.

4 As soon as the appeal or application had been lodged, the appellant's or applicant's solicitors had to give careful consideration, *with the advice of counsel where* appropriate, to the necessary content of the core bundles. If they were in *any doubt concerning the* documents which the other side would need, they had to consult the respondent's solicitors at an early stage.

5 *No later than the date stated in* the letter from the Civil Appeals Office acknowledging entry of the case in the court's records, the appellant's or applicant's solicitors must lodge with the Civil Appeals Office bundle registry the number of sets of core bundles specified in that letter. No other bundles were to be lodged.

6 One set of the full trial bundles *should be brought to the Court of* Appeal hearing, but not lodged in advance.

7 Those directions applied to all appeals and applications where the bundles were lodged after June 1, 1997, whether the case was entered in the court's records before or after that date.

8 The obligations of litigants in person in relation to bundles would continue to be governed exclusively by *paragraphs 52 to 54* of the 1995 *Practice Direction.*

Hear by dates

9 The new hear by dates set out below would apply to all cases whether entered in the court's records before or after June 1, 1997, save for those which, at that date, already had hearing dates arranged.

Matrimonial: child cases, 3 *months; financial and other,* 6 months.

Crown Office cases: immigration appeals and Crown Office interlocutory, 3 months; Crown Office finals, 9 months.

High Court interlocutory: Commercial Court and Official Referees, 11 months; Order 14, 3 months; Order 14A, 9 months; other Queen's Bench, 5 months; Chancery, 9 *months.*

High Court final: Patents Court, Commercial Court and Official *Referees, 18 months; personal injury,* 12 months; other Queen's Bench, 15 months; Chancery, 15 months.

County Court: interlocutory, 4 months; possession, 4 months; personal injury, 8 months; other county court finals, 12 months.

Tribunals, 12 months.

Dealing with uncontested applications

Practice Direction (Crown Office List: Consent orders)

Uncontested applications in civil and criminal causes or matters would be dealt with under a procedure which replaced that set out, in respect of civil matters, in *Practice Direction (Crown Office List: Uncontested proceedings)* ([1982] 1 WLR 979) and, in so far as relevant to criminal matters, in *Practice Direction (Crown Office List: Criminal proceedings)* ([1983] 1 WLR 925).

Lord Bingham of Cornhill Lord Chief Justice, sitting with Lord Justice Hirst and Lord Justice Millett, so stated on May 12.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said:

1 Determination of proceedings

Where the parties were agreed as to the terms on which proceedings entered in the Crown Office List could be disposed of and required an order of the court to put those terms into effect, they should lodge with the Crown Office a document, with two copies thereof, signed by the parties setting out the terms of the proposed agreed order and a short statement of the matters relied on as justifying the making of the *order, authorities and statutory* provisions relied on being quoted.

The Crown Office would then *submit the document to the court,* in a civil cause or matter to a single judge and in a criminal cause or *matter to a Divisional Court, and,* if the court was satisfied that the order should be made, the *proceedings would be listed for pronouncement* of the order in open court without the need for attendance by *the parties or their representatives.*

If the court was not satisfied on the information originally *provided or subsequently provided at* the court's request, that the order could properly be made, the *proceedings would be listed for* hearing in the normal way.

2 Interlocutory orders

Where the parties sought an interlocutory order and were agreed as to the terms of that *proposed order they should lodge* with the Crown Office a document, with two copies thereof, signed by *the parties setting out the terms of* the proposed agreed order and a short statement of the matters relied on as justifying the making of the order, and, where appropriate, citing authorities and statutory provisions relied on.

The Crown Office would then submit the document to a judge *and, if he was satisfied that the* order should be made, the order would be drawn and sent to the *parties without the need for the* proceedings to be listed.

Withdrawal of proceedings, including habeas corpus

(a) Where leave of the court was not necessary for proceedings to be withdrawn, the applicant or appellant, as the case might be, must lodge a notice of withdrawal with the Crown Office and serve a copy of that notice on all other parties to the proceedings. The court file would then be closed.

(b) Where the parties were *agreed that the proceedings should* be withdrawn but required the leave of the court to do so, or seek *an order* for costs in relation to those proceedings, they should lodge with the Crown Office a document, with two copies thereof, signed by the parties setting out the terms of the proposed withdrawal.

The Crown Office would then submit the document to the Master *of the Crown Office and, if he was* satisfied that the proceedings should be withdrawn on the terms *proposed, any order necessary* would be drawn and sent to the parties without the need for the *proceedings to be listed in open* court. The court file would then be closed.

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CHANGING TIMES

Compensation for landlord

In re Park Air Services plc

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Potter and Lord Justice *Mummery*

[Judgment May 1]

On the disclaimer of a lease in a winding up or a bankruptcy the landlord was entitled to prove for all the rent and other payments which he would have been entitled to recover from the tenant for the residue of the term, had the lease not been determined.

But in estimating the amount of the debt for which he proved, the landlord had to give credit for the fact that he had recovered the *premises and could re-let them.* If he could only re-let at a lower rent he could claim the difference *between what he would have* recovered from the old tenant and the amount he would in fact *recover from a new tenant.*

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal by the landlord, Christopher Moran Holdings plc, from the decision of Mr Justice Ferris on December 21, 1995 ([1996] BCLC 547) hearing an application for a declaration as to the correct basis of calculating the loss or damage payable by the liquidators of Park Air Services plc, in respect of the disclaimer of that company's lease of commercial premises at 48 Gray's Inn Road, London, and determining the amount payable under section 178(6) of the Insolvency Act 1986 in the amount of £1,053,000.

Section 178 of the 1986 Act *provides:* "*(6) Any person sustaining loss or damage in consequence of the operation of a disclaimer under this section is deemed a* creditor of the company to the extent of the loss or damage and *accordingly may prove for the loss* or damage in the winding up."

Mr Terence Etherton, QC and Mr Peter Griffiths for the landlord; Mr Richard Adkins, QC and Mr Edward Cole for the liquidators. Mr Vivien Bairstow and Mr Nigel Ruddock.

LORD JUSTICE MUMMERY, giving the judgment of the court, said that the question was: What was *the correct method of calculating* the extent of the loss or damage payable in a voluntary liquidation *to the landlord in consequence of* the disclaimer of the lease by the liquidators of the tenant company *under section 178 of the 1986 Act?*

The issue was formulated in a more tendentious form by Mr Etherton as: At what price could a solvent company, put into voluntary liquidation by its members, buy off its obligations to the landlord under the lease?

In 1990 the landlord granted a lease of office buildings at 48 Gray's Inn Road to Park Air Services for a term of 25 years at an initial rent of £140,000, rising to £160,000 in the fourth and fifth years and with upward only rent reviews at five-yearly intervals thereafter. By 1994 it became *apparent that the rent payable was* substantially in excess of the current rental value.

In December 1994 Park Air Services entered into members' voluntary winding up and the liquidators gave notice of disclaimer of the lease. A dispute then arose as to the amount of the landlord's proof, the landlord submitting calculations in support of a figure initially calculated at £5,350,178 and the liquidators estimating the amount as just under £200,000.

On the landlord's appeal, launched by an application dated April 6, 1995, against rejection of its proof, a declaration was sought pursuant to rule 4.83 of the *Insolvency Rules (SI 1986 No 1925)* that the decision of the liquidators not to admit its proof, then in a *revised amount of some £3,500,000* be reversed or varied, the judge had held the landlord to be a creditor of Park Air in the sum of £1,053,000.

The evidence and the arguments before the judge were detailed and complex. The landlord's case on appeal had been simplified by Mr Etherton. The attractive force of his submissions was their simplicity and foundation on first principles.

The start was the statutory *question: What was the extent of* the loss or damage sustained by the landlord in consequence of the *operation of the disclaimer?*

In principle, the loss sustained by the landlord would appear to be the difference between (a) the aggregate of the rent and other payments which the landlord was entitled to be paid by the tenant for the residue of the term of the lease and (b) the amount of the rent and other payments which it was estimated, at the date of the disclaimer, the landlord could obtain from another tenant entering into the same lease, save as to rent, for a term equivalent to the residue of the term granted by the disclaimed lease.

That difference would produce a figure for which the landlord was entitled to prove in the winding up *of the company. Nothing in the* 1986 Act refuted or refined that approach.

The position of the landlord had to be viewed in its proper context, namely proof of debt in the winding up of the tenant company. It was not to be approached simply as a claim for damages for breach or repudiation of an ordinary commercial contract in respect of which the plaintiff was seeking compensation for lost future income.

The landlord's position on the winding up was that of a secured creditor, that is, one who had a *proprietory or possessory interest* over the property of the tenant as security for payment of a debt.

The reason for determination of the lease, whether it was surrender, acceptance of repudiation, operation of disclaimer or treating the lease as determined for the purposes of proof, was irrelevant *to the landlord's right to prove for* future rent.

But the landlord had to give credit for the fact that on the determination he recovered the premises and might re-let them. If he could only re-let for the residue of the original term at a lower rent, then he was entitled to claim for the difference between what he would have recovered from the tenant, if the lease had continued, and the amount which he would in fact recover from a new tenant of *the premises.*

The extent of the tenant's insolvency was irrelevant to the *estimation of the size of the debt due to* the landlord, although, of course, the extent of the insolvency would *affect the amount that the landlord* in fact received by way of dividend in respect of his proof.

The judge placed a capital value as at the date of proof on the landlord's right to receive the income stream lost as a result of the operation of the disclaimer and a discount for early payment was applied.

His approach was incorrect. It *did not give effect to the statutory* right of the landlord to prove in the liquidation, as illustrated by the *authorities on bankruptcy and* liquidation.

Moreover, the judge erred in *holding that rule 11.13(3) of the 1986* Rules did not apply to a proof for the loss or damage payable to the *landlord under section 178(6) of the* Act.

The effect of paragraph (3) of rule 11.13 was that the landlord was entitled to be paid, out of the surplus funds available in the liquidation, the full amount of the future rent reserved by the lease, less the credit for the rent obtainable on a re-letting in the open market after disclaimer. The result was that no statutory discount for early payment was applicable to the landlord's proof for future rent.

An order should be made in the terms of the declaration sought by the landlord.

Solicitors: Memery Crystal; Lawrence Graham.

Condition of gift sufficiently certain

Ellis v Chief Adjudication Officer

Before Lord Justice Staughton, *Lord Justice Otton and Lord* Justice Schiemann

[Judgment May 8]

A condition of a gift of a flat by an elderly parent to her daughter that the daughter would look after the parent in the flat, was sufficiently certain to render the gift valid and effective in that *it* was to be construed as requiring the daughter to allow the parent to live in the flat as long as was reasonably practicable.

The Court of Appeal so held in *reserved judgments dismissing an* appeal by Mrs Lonny Ellis against the decision of the Chief *Adjudication Officer on March 21, 1995* that she was not entitled to income support because her capital exceeded the prescribed amount of *£6,000.*

The Chief Adjudication Officer held that the gift of her home in *Nottingham to her daughter,* Annette Ellis, was subject to the condition that her daughter would *look after her in the flat; that the* condition was unfulfilled when the daughter evicted her whereupon *the gift failed, entitling the mother* to part of the proceeds of sale.

Miss Lorna Findlay for the mother; Mr Timothy Mould for the Chief Adjudication Officer.

LORD JUSTICE STAUGHTON said that if the condition which the mother laid *down to her daughter was void for* uncertainty it would promote her claim for income support, but she *could not recover the proceeds of* sale of her flat.

There had to be many elderly parents who parted with their property *to their children in the* faith of assurances such as that given to the mother.

Was the law to say that unless they made a contract to that effect, and unless the term was at least sufficiently certain to qualify as a term of a contract, they could do *nothing to protect their interest?*

The condition could fairly be construed as requiring the daughter *(i) to allow the mother to live in* the flat for so long as it was reasonably practicable for her to do so and (ii) to see that she was provided, for payment if required, with the basic necessities of life. Such a term had sufficient certainty to ensure that it was valid and not ineffective.

LORD JUSTICE OTTON, concurring, said that a fair meaning to attribute to the terms used *was for the donee to permit the* parent to remain in the home for so long as they both agreed or it was *reasonably practicable to do so.* That would avoid ambiguity and permit some flexibility in implementating the arrangement.

A parent *might* agree to be rehoused in accommodation more suitable for the parent's needs, or might be reluctant to move even in the teeth of medical advice and the family's wishes for the parent's well being.

In the latter case it could not be said that the offspring had acted unreasonably and nullified the gift in removing the parent to other more suitable accommodation.

Lord Justice Schiemann agreed.

Solicitors: Ward & Griffiths, Nottingham; Solicitor, Department of Social Security.

Tax charge for each car to be calculated individually

Henwood (Inspector of Taxes) v Clarke

Before Mr Justice Ferris

[Judgment May 6]

For income tax purposes an employee who during a single tax *year had made available to him by* his employer, consecutively, two motor cars had to calculate the *amount of the benefit charge and* also the proportional threshold for his insubstantial business use by reference to each individual car.

The provisions of section 157 of, and Schedule 6 to the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 did not allow such calculations to be made by reference to the total business mileage covered by the employee during the year in both cars.

Mr *Justice Ferris so held in a* reserved judgment in the Chancery Division allowing an appeal *by the Crown from a determination* of Kensington general commissioners that had upheld an appeal by the taxpayer, *Peter John* Clarke, against an assessment to Schedule E income tax for 1993-94 by reducing an amount in respect of car benefit from £3,984 to £2,990.

During 1993-94 the taxpayer, employed by National Westminster Bank plc, had made available for his use, consecutively, two cars: a Citroen from April 6 to *August 5 and thereafter a Ford. In* addition to private use, the taxpayer covered 1,425 business miles *in the Citroen and a further 1,452* business miles after August 5 in the Ford.

By section 157 of the 1988 Act the availability of a car gave rise to a charge for car benefit, and by Table A in Part I of Schedule 6 the cash equivalent of that benefit "in the case of cars with an original market value of up to £19,250" was £2,990.

By paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 6 the cash equivalent was to be reduced by an amount "which bears to the full amount of the equivalent . . . the same proportion as the number of days in the year on which the car was unavailable bears to 365".

By paragraph 5(1) the cash equivalent was to be increased by half if "the car's use for business *travel did not amount to more than* 2,500 miles", insubstantial business use.

The tax inspector calculated the proportional miles for insubstantial business use as 836 miles for the Citroen and 1,664 miles for the Ford and as the taxpayer had only *completed 1,452 miles in the Ford,* compared to the proportional threshold of 1,664 miles, the charge *for that car was uplifted by a half* to make a total charge for both cars of £3,984.

The commissioners upheld the taxpayer's contention that as the total business mileage for both cars exceeded 2,500 miles the inspector was not permitted to increase the charge for the Ford.

Mr Launcelot Henderson, QC, for the Crown; the taxpayer did not appear and was not represented.

MR JUSTICE FERRIS said that the appeal raised a *point* on the construction of the provisions relating to the taxation of a benefit *consisting of the provision of a car* for the use of an employee whose business mileage was *insubstantial.*

Where an employer made available a car to an employee earning more than £8,500 a year and the car was available for the employee's private use, then an amount equal to the cash equivalent was to be treated as part of the emoluments of the employment.

The amount of the cash equivalent depended on a number of *factors that included the original* market value of the car, its age and cylinder capacity. The basic cash equivalent was then to be adjusted upwards or downwards to allow for various other factors. One of those was the extent to which the car was used for the employee's business travel.

The problem in the present case, which could not be an uncommon *one, arose from the fact that the car* provided for the taxpayer was changed about one third of the way through the relevant tax year. His business travel in the two cars amounted in the aggregate to a little more than 2,500 miles.

The taxpayer contended that it *was that aggregate which had to* be looked at and that the basic cash equivalent was not subject to any *increase.*

Although the amount of tax at stake was small, it was said that the point was one of general importance on the construction of the legislation. That remained the case even though the relevant legislation had been changed by the Finance Act 1993 in respect of the tax year 1994-95 and subsequent years.

Mr Henderson argued that the taxpayer's approach, the common sense and simplicity of which commended it to the commissioners, was wrong. The statutory provisions, he submitted, would only work if they were applied to each car separately.

That was mainly because the variables which had to be taken into account in ascertaining the basic cash equivalent for each car could only be applied to an individual car with particular characteristics, in terms of original market value, age and cylinder capacity.

It so happened, he said, that the Citroen and the Ford in the present *case each had the* same basic cash equivalent, namely £2,990. But if either had differed from the other in material respects then they would have had different cash equivalents, and what then, asked Mr Henderson, would be the cash equivalent to be increased under paragraphe 5?

Mr Henderson was correct. Although on the straigtforward *facts of this particular case the* calculations provided by the inspector might seem to be *unnecessarily* complicated by comparison with the taxpayer's simple approach, such calculations were inevitable where one was dealing with cases where the basic cash equivalent for each of two or more cars made available to an employee for private use in a single tax year was *not* the same amount.

Those calculations were required by *the* language of the legislation whenever a car was replaced during the course of a tax year with a car having a different basic cash equivalent.

It clearly *could not* have been intended that a different approach would be required in a case where *the original* car and its replacement had the same basic cash equivalent.

The approach adopted by the inspector applied to both cases and the figure of £3,984 arrived at on the facts of the present case was correct.

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Friday 23rd May.

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PJB PUBLICATIONS LTD

Secretary
Wellcome Department of Cognitive Neurology

INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGY
QUEEN SQUARE

Applications are invited from experienced secretaries for this post in the Administration section of the Functional Imaging Laboratory, a prestigious new national centre opened at Queen Square *in autumn 1995*. The post involves day-to-day secretarial support to the Department using AppleMac wordprocessing (WordPerfect), audio-typing and spreadsheets (Excel). Medical and/or academic experience plus a knowledge of basic bookkeeping would be an advantage. The post is available immediately for 3 years in the first instance. Salary on the CRA4 scale in the range £15,897 pa - £17,601 pa inclusive, superannuable.

Applications (CV and names of 3 referees) should be sent by 31 May 1997 to Miss E Bertram, Assistant Secretary (Personnel), Institute of Neurology, The National Hospital for Neurology & Neurosurgery, Queen Square, London WC1N 3BG, from whom further details may be obtained (tel: 0171 837 3611, ext 4136; fax: 0171 278 5069; email: ebertram@ion.ucl.ac.uk). Informal enquiries to Mr Terry Morris (tel: 0171 833 7474).

Affiliated with University College London

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

PA/SEC TO MARKETING DIRECTOR
(DOCKLANDS)

We are seeking applicants with strong skills and strong characters to organise the busy schedule of a dynamic Director.

This is a challenging role offering a great opportunity to become truly involved in all aspects of marketing.

Shorthand is essential. Ideally, you will have director-level experience. Write to:
Terri Holmes
Greenwich Group Ltd
4th Floor, City Reach One
Millharbour, London E14 9NN

ENGLISH SECRETARY in COPENHAGEN

at Int'l HQ of OSCE Parliament. Must have secretarial / computer training. S/H preferable, other languages helpful. Tax free salary. Send C.V. to OSCE PA, Radhusstraede 1, DK-1466, Copenhagen K or Fax to (45) 33 32 55 05.

Chief Executive's Department

PA TO HEAD OF COMMUNICATIONS & MEMBERS, SERVICES*

up to £17,616 p.a. inc. (pay award pending)

PA TO HEAD OF STRATEGIC POLICY & QUALITY

up to £16,104 p.a. inc. (pay award pending)

TYPING SPEED: 120 WORDS PER MINUTE?

It doesn't matter, that's not what we are looking for

But we do want two experienced an enthusiastic PA's who know that being a PA is not only about typing.

As the key focal point for each Head of Service and their "right hand person", you will be in a highly visible and extremely prestigious position, one which will involve far from run-of-the-mill PA activities and challenge you to undertake a stimulating variety of functions, while balancing an ever-changing workload.

To succeed in this role you will need an unusual combination of skills and experience. It is essential that you are looking to develop as an integral part of a small team and have a calm, professional and judicious approach.

You will have an eye for detail, the ability to prioritise and organise your own schedule and the confidence to run with ideas, deal with research requests, briefings and predict the unpredictable!

*The PA to Head of Communications & Members' Services post also deputies to the Chief Executive's Executive Assistant during absence.

If you are looking for an opportunity to use all your skills to the full get in touch now!!!!

For further information and an application pack please contact Chief Executives Department, Personnel Services, Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden, Surrey SM4 5DX or telephone 0181 545 4033 (24 hour anwerphone)

Minicom users only 0181 545 4172

Please quote ref: CX101

Closing date for receipt of applications 30th May 1997

It is the policy of Merton to guarantee an interview to all disabled applicants who meet the minimum criteria for the post

All full-time posts are open for Job share unless otherwise indicated.

merton
moving ahead

CREATING EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER

Primary Capital is an independent private equity firm involved in arranging and financing management buyouts.

We want to recruit an Administrative Manager to help with all aspects of the business. Reporting to the Administrator, the role includes a variety of responsibilities, such as: preparation of reports/presentations; diary/travel management; general reception duties; day-to-day office management and purchasing. You will also assist with research projects, database & contact management, systems administration andorganisation of conferences & presentations.

The position requires a confident, well-spoken, presentable individual who is IT literate and preferably has language skills. We offer an attractive salary & benefits package and a very pleasant working environment in the centre of the City. Age indicator: 20-25 years, educated to at least A Level or equivalent.

Please send CV and current salary details, by 20 May, to:
The Administrator, Primary Capital, 9 King Street, London EC2V 8EA

PRIMARY
CAPITAL

Haines Watts
HW
Chartered Accountants

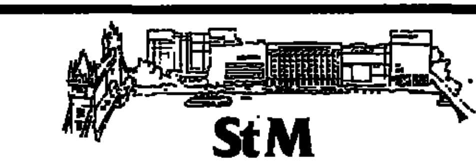
ADMIN/SECRETARIES

Bright, enthusiastic, pro-active, self-driven, team player, with a sense of humour? If this describes you, we want to meet you now. In fact you and your twin.

We are a fast-moving, go-ahead, West End based, top twenty accounting firm needing two admin/secretaries for two new teams; one for the marketing partner and the business development manager and the other one for the Tax Director and his team.

You will have a professional services background, though not essential, if you can demonstrate a professional approach. You should have good communication, client handling, and presentation skills. Experience of MicroSoft Office is essential, Macintosh preferable and good IT skills.

If you think you've got what it takes to add value to our business, call me CHRIS TOMLINS on 0171 498 3486 and tell me how. Salary negotiable.



StM
LONDON BRIDGE HOSPITAL

MEDICAL SECRETARY
(Salary dependent on experience)

The London Bridge Hospital is a modern high-tech private hospital situated on the South Bank of the River Thames, adjacent to London Bridge mainline and underground stations.

A new post has been created for an experienced Medical Secretary to provide a secretarial service to a number of Consultants in a range of specialities and also to assist the Marketing Director in the development of the Medical Secretarial Service.

Duties will include typing medical reports and correspondence, diary keeping and appointment making, preparation of Consultant accounts. The post holder will liaise closely with other clinical departments, patient accounts/reservations, medical secretaries, insurers and embassies, therefore excellent communication skills are essential.

The successful applicant will be a self-starter with a mature attitude and flexible approach *to meet the needs of the Consultants using the service.*

Applications by CV to Kay Jordan, Personnel Officer, London Bridge Hospital, 27 Tooley Street, London SE1 2PR.

Closing date: 23rd May 1997.

The London Bridge Hospital is a no smoking organisation

BUSINESS SUPPORT
Use your skills for UK Sport

Salaries £14,000 - £19,000pa inc.
according to experience and ability.

The newly formed UK Sports Council is responsible for various major issues of national and international sport, including strategic planning, the development of sporting excellence, performance development, international liaison and doping control, as well as for establishing the important role of the British Academy of Sport in the UK's sporting future.

We now require a number of secretaries/administrators, who will be fully involved in many aspects of this work. You will need good IT skills preferably with experience of Word and Excel. Experience with Powerpoint would also be useful. Above all, you should be a self-starter and a good organiser with financial acumen. Able to organise meetings and work on your own initiative in a variety of general office and administrative situations. The roles do vary from general office administration, database management to business support for a team.

For further information and an application pack, please write to Zarinah Davies, Human Resources Unit, The United Kingdom Sports Council, 16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0QP. Alternatively, telephone 0171 273 1600 (24 hour answerphone). Clearly specify ref: 26/97. Closing date: 27 May.

UK sports council

As an equal opportunities employer, the Council welcomes applications from all sections of the community. An interview will be guaranteed for people with disabilities who meet the job requirements and, where necessary, reasonable adjustments to working arrangements and premises will be made.

LONDON'S LEADING DOMESTIC RECRUITMENT AGENCY IS EXPANDING!

We are seeking four well-presented **Recruitment Consultants** to open and develop new areas of business. You must be self-motivated, enthusiastic with a competitive edge: WP/database experience an advantage.

Young, bubbly **Receptionist/Office Assistant** with office experience sought to assist ten busy Consultants. Good telephone manner, sec skills W4W with flexible and organised approach essential.

If you are experienced or simply very keen to join a lively and professional team who work in a fun, hectic environment, call Sarajane Turnbull for an informal chat or fax your CV now!

Tel: 0171 581 1331 Fax: 0171 581 3078
25 Thurloe Street, South Kensington,
London SW7 2LH

DMB&B DESIGN

is a small lively design company; part of a multi-national advertising and communications group. We are currently looking for a pro-active and enthusiastic PA to help run a small team. Our ideal candidate should be a good team player, have a positive outlook and fast accurate audio typing, preferably having worked in the communication industry previously.

If you have a cheerful lively personality, can remain calm under pressure and if you are willing to work long hours when required, we should be glad to hear from you. You will be working in a busy, friendly environment and become part of a team with a very high level of commitment and where a sense of humour is a positive advantage. Salary neg.

Applications with CV and daytime tel no. should be addressed to: Heidi Webb, DMB&B, Group Personnel Department, 123 Buckingham Palace Road, London, SW1W 9DZ. Fax no: 0171 592 1039.

مكنز الاعلان

Telephone:
0171 680 6806

Crème de la Crème

Fax:
0171 782 7586

AUTHOR'S PA
£20,000 + NEG

This successful international writer is looking for a committed secretary with a flexible and adaptable personality to work from his home in North London. Excellent shorthand as all his work is initially dictated. Fascinating environment for like-minded individual. Car driver. 110 wpm S/H.

Please telephone **0171 495 2321.**

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

COSMETICS
£21,000

This prestigious international cosmetics house has an opportunity for a switched on PA. Unlimited variety and a high level of responsibility will make this a rewarding and stretching role. Senior level experience and 80 wpm shorthand essential.

Please telephone **0171 495 2321.**

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

ENTREPRENEUR
£20,000

A new role in a start up situation supporting this charming Russian gentleman. Your social poise and your excellent organisational flair will prove invaluable as you establish systems and liaise with international VIP's. 60 wpm typing essential.

Please telephone **0171 495 2321.**

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

CHAIRMAN'S PA
£25,000 + BENEFITS

A true right hand role assisting an extremely dynamic and successful individual. Challenging position requiring superb organisational skills. Lots of contact with VIP's. Would suit someone with an interest in current affairs. 90 wpm shorthand minimum.

Please telephone **0171 628 9529.**

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

FACILITIES ADMIN
£22,000

Your organisational skills, telecoms and hands-on experience of facilities is your passport to this varied role. The company is at the forefront of the telecoms industry, progressive, successful and expanding and offer you a career opportunity not to be missed.

Please telephone on **0171 628 9529.**

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

MISON RECRUITMENT

TRAINEE SECRETARIAL RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
£ Excellent

We are expanding all Secretarial Divisions within MISON and are looking for bright, enthusiastic INDIVIDUALS. You will be well educated. European languages helpful, but not essential, charming and resourceful, with a realistic approach to a role that is both demanding and satisfying.

MISON takes a great pride in the service and care it offers both candidates and clients and you would represent our dedication to excellence in servicing a blue chip client base.

Full training will be given in all aspects of the role, utilising the latest technology, therefore computer literacy essential.

Please telephone Gill Gaine in total confidence on 0171-583-5441 or Fax 0171-583-1784.

RECRUITMENT and INTERVIEWING 30s - 40s

A rare chance for a resourceful and businesslike 30s-40s to join Covent Garden Bureau's Interviewing Team.

A Customer Service or Personnel background is ideal, plus the resilience to make a success of this challenging career. Salary package to £25,000.

Please call David Fisher or Eira Zuill.

COVENT GARDEN BUREAU
8 MADDOX STREET LONDON W1R 9PN
0171 495 8822

PERSONAL ASSISTANT
TO THE CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER

London, W1
£17,775 - £18,732 per annum

You will provide secretarial and administrative support and will have excellent organisational and secretarial skills, (including 80 wpm shorthand) and the ability to take minutes of meetings. You will be expected to demonstrate initiative, particularly in the Chief Probation Officer's absence, as well as complete integrity in dealing with confidential matters and officials with whom you will have contact.

You will use Word Perfect 6.1, as well as Lotus Notes E-Mail and also be expected to work as part of a team.

For an application pack, send a POSTCARD with your name and address, to Middlesex Probation Service (reference HO/PA01), 4th Floor, Glen House, 200 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 9LA.

Closing date: 30th May 1997.

An Equal Opportunities Employer, promoting Quality Services.
Middlesex Probation Service

SOFTWARE HOUSE. PUTNEY. £14K-£18K

EXPERIENCED SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATOR

to work with Management Team of small, friendly but hectic company with International client base.

◆ HARDWORKING / FLEXIBLE / WELL ORGANISED
◆ MINIMUM 'A' LEVEL EDUCATION ◆ EXCEL/WINDOWS 95
◆ FLUENT FRENCH ESSENTIAL

Please send letter and CV to Christine Stone

HILL PRICE DAVISON
Abbey House, 170 Upper Richmond Rd, Putney, London SW15 2SH

RECEPTIONIST/JUNIOR SECRETARY

Bright, enthusiastic Receptionist required for West End office of nationwide property firm.

Duties will include switchboard, copy typing, travel arrangements and general reception/typist duties. An excellent telephone manner and good keyboard skills will therefore be essential. Age 18-22, ideally you will have 6-12 months minimum office experience. Knowledge of W4W would be advantage.

If you would like to join our young dynamic team, please write, enclosing your CV and current salary details to:

Mrs P J Ankjaer
Workman & Partners
Marble Arch House
66/68 Seymour Street
London W1H 6EP
Strictly no agencies

PERSONAL ASSISTANT/SECRETARY

Working for a small but busy South Kensington property company. You will have a very varied workload, including certain personal work. You must be reliable and able to operate under pressure, while retaining a good telephone manner and a sunny disposition. A clear thinking and organised mind is essential.

Salary according to age and experience. Please send CV by fax to 0171 581 8425 or write to L.Johnson, 97 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 3LD.

CONSULTANCY PA.

PA required for management consultancy in Knightsbridge. Exciting opportunity for skilled, experienced PA to provide administrative support to senior consultants. The successful candidate will be self-directed, responsible, able to communicate with executive clients, and possess excellent secretarial skills (Word for Windows, Powerpoint, Excel). European Language skills required. Salary to £18,000pa.

To apply, please forward your CV, including a note about your career interests, and salary expectations to UMS Group UK Limited, 195 Knightsbridge, London, SW7 1RE, marked for the attention of David Johnson.

PA (+ADMIN)
£20-23K

Working with Managing Partner of top-level consulting firm.
Good skills and unflappable! West End.
Tel: John Stark
0171-584 3400

Prestigious Merchant Bank

Canary Wharf
Temp Senior Secretaries
Long term Assignments
W6, Powerpoint, Excel
£10+ ph
Fax CV to Caroline Smith
0181 857 1755.

WEST END SURVEYORS

Seek bright receptionist
Excellent telephone manner & deportment, some clerical duties
Salary £neg
Please apply Diane
Gross Fine: TEL 0171 493 3993
FAX: 0171 499 4967

SECRETARY

Small team of Property Consultants in Knightsbridge require self motivated secretary with good communications skills who is keen to get involved. Car driver essential. Salary negotiable. Start asap.

Tel: 0171 225 1616

OPPORTUNITIES IN HR
£18-£25,000

We are currently recruiting for a number of senior secretarial vacancies in the Human Resources Departments of blue chip, city-based organisations. These are front-line positions which require the ability to thrive in an often hectic and pressurised environment and to be able to deal diplomatically with sensitive and confidential issues. As well as providing full secretarial support, you will have to arrange meetings, co-ordinate diaries and liaise with staff at all levels. If you have over 2 years' secretarial experience and relish the opportunity to play a pivotal role in the future of a major company, call us now.

Committed to equal opportunities

0171 814 0800

Angela Mortimer

TEMPS
FED UP WITH BANKING INSURANCE & FINANCE?

Why not try Covent Garden Bureau for assignments in The Arts, Publishing, Charities and Prestigious Non Commercial Organisations?

We require experienced, reliable and efficient Secretaries, Receptionists and Admin Staff. Good pay - join us now!

COVENT GARDEN BUREAU
8 MADDOX STREET LONDON W1R 9PN
0171 495 8822

RED, BLUE *OR* GREEN..

PA TO MARKETING MD
£22K + 1ST CLASS BENS – LEISURE CO.
Roles like this are rare! Working for a dynamic MD you should expect a high admin content combined with extensive VIP liaison. 90wpm SH, Word for Windows, Excel and Powerpoint. A second language an advantage. Call Corrina NOW!

DEPARTMENTAL SEC/ADMINISTRATOR
UP TO £19K + PAID O/T + BENS – CITY
Do you thrive under pressure? Are you 21-30, client driven and enjoy a financial environment? Come and meet our City based client who requires advanced Graphics + Word plus intermediate Excel with 55wpm typing. Call Deborah NOW!

YOUNG SECS – BOYS, BUCKS & BOLLINGER!
UP TO £16K + EXC. BENS
Want to join the City Whiz Kids and get a piece of the social life? This City Bank has two openings for Secretaries aged 18-25 (College Leavers welcome) with 40wpm typing, and Word for Windows. If you are outgoing and enjoy a male environment, call Anna NOW!

..JOIN THE WINNING TEAM!

- Are you aged 18-40?
- Have a good working knowledge of MS Office?
- Good audio and shorthand skills?

REWARDS

- Holiday pay
- Highly competitive rates
- 52 weeks per year employment
- Chance to win £1,000 in prize draw
- Friendly, professional and dedicated consultants

INTERESTED?
CALL NOW FOR AN IMMEDIATE INTERVIEW!

PAN EUROPEAN RECRUITMENT
TEL: 0171 734 8484
FAX: 0171 734 8501

PERSONAL ASSISTANTS

CREATIVE SW6 c£18K
Fashion Co req 2nd/3rd Jobber, with rusty SH to work as PA to Dir. & team.

FINANCE WC1 & SW6 c£20K
Corporate PAs req with F.D. level exp to work in Retail & Accountancy. Rusty SH ess.

DTP WC2 & WC1 c£18-20K
2 Consultancies req DTP Sec. 1: indepth exp of Pagemaker. 2: exp of Quark.

FASHION WC1 & SW6 c£18-22K
PAs req with SH80wpm, W4W, Type 55wpm & exc secretarial skills. Age 20-35.

For further information call Wendy or Rachel, La Crème Recruitment Consultants on 0171 420 8008 or fax your C.V to 0171 420 8044

LA CRÈME

P/A SECRETARY

An experienced and self-motivated individual is required to support the development of a brand new healthcare business. As well as working with the Managing Director, the successful candidate will support the sales & marketing team and be responsible for setting up the necessary office systems. Experience with MSOffice would be an advantage.

If interested in joining an enthusiastic team and making a valuable contribution, then please send current C.V. to:-

The Managing Director
International Telemedicine Services
10 Charles II Street
London
SW1Y 4AA

NUMERATE PART-TIME PA

Managing Director of small international magazine publishing company in Westminster seeks numerate, utterly reliable PA with excellent skills (if rusty) who can support the business from book-keeping to budgets to keeping correspondence ticking over while the MD is abroad on business. Needs to be able to work without supervision and like getting things right. Minimum hours 10.00 to 1.00 Monday to Friday. Generous unpaid time off negotiable, as well as 4 weeks' paid holiday. Microsoft office. Please send hand-written letter and typed CV to:

Benefits & Compensation International,
East Wing, Fourth Floor, Hope House,
45 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 3LT,
tel. 0171 222 0288.

JUNIOR ADMINSTRATOR TO £13,000

Optima Connections is a young, dynamic IT recruitment consultancy based in modern offices just north of the city. We are expanding rapidly and currently require a Junior Administrator. You must have good typing skills (minimum 30 wpm), some computer experience and ideally word for windows together with an excellent telephone manner. Full training will be provided for the right candidate.

Your responsibilities will include answering the phone, typing and scanning CVs, updating the database, filing and photocopying together with potentially interviewing candidates. We offer superb working conditions and a very friendly environment.

If you are interested in applying, please forward your CV to Joanne Ridgeway at Optima Connections Ltd., 4 Bath Street, London, EC1V 9DX. Fax: 0171 608 1205. Phone: 0171 608 0990. Email: optima.connections@dial.pipex.com.

SHEILA CHILDS RECRUITMENT
£25,000

The Chief Executive of a West End PLC at the very forefront of its field in an exclusive and colourful market seeks a PA who, in his own words, is capable of running a business.

You will need to be very sharp with a career founded on self-assurance and an ability to inspire confidence. You will be pacey in both ethos and style with an incisive mind and by nature you are calm and steady. As a matter of routine you will read the financial pages on a daily basis, have an awareness of current affairs and a real interest in how the business world operates. On top of all this you will of course have a wonderful sense of humour! Age 25-35. Skills 80/60.

4 Ganton Street, London W1V 1LJ
Telephone: 0171 437 3111 Fax: 0171 437 4050

MARKETING MOLE
£18-20,000 (temp to perm)

This global organisation needs a graduate secretary for their high profile Marketing Team. The job requires a proactive confident person to work alongside them and act as a focal point in their absence. You will be responsible for their travel arrangements, conferences and hectic diaries in addition to more long term project work. Your sound knowledge of Windows including graphics plus drive and ambition will be your entry qualification enabling you to dig the foundations of a marketing career. Please call us now.

Committed to equal opportunities

0171 287 7788

Angela Mortimer

SUMMERS By Two

TOP RECEPTIONISTS INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES
£16,500 - £19,000

Several opportunities have arisen in very prestigious international companies. 'State of the art' reception areas seek either a sole personand/or 2 receptionists as part of a larger team. Excellent previous relevant experience needed together with stylish grooming and articulate speech. Keyboard skills & Meridian switchboard.

Please call 0171 637 3212

TOP FLIGHT CENTRAL LONDON PROPERTY BROKER

to join and be trained within an existing very successful team. No previous experience required. OTE £20K-50K after training plus company car. Must live in London and be aged 21-30.

Tel: 0171 973 2048.

BORED SECRETARIES.

If you are looking for an opportunity to move away from secretarial, join Foxton's Property Management Department. Run your own Property Management section taking responsibility for 100 properties or more, in a progressive fast moving organisation. Must be well educated, hard working, having a great sense of humour, sound comp skills, a will to learn, car driver Salary £18-£22k.

Tel 0171 973 2048.

FIRST CLASS AUDIO SECRETARY / ADMINISTRATOR

Required for this small friendly West End Insurance Brokers. Must have excellent audio skills and be keen to learn and develop the role. Good knowledge of Word for Windows 6.0 essential. Salary Range £17,000 to £18,000.

Applicants should send a full CV and hand-written covering letter to Box No 4977

No Agencies

SECRETARY/ RECEPTIONIST
SALARY NEGOTIABLE

Secretary/Receptionist required for small dynamic company. Must be well presented and computer literate (60wpm/W4W).

Please send your CV together with a hand written letter to the Administration Manager, Harben Financial Services Limited, 369 Euston Road, London, NW1 3AR.

Strictly no agencies.

OUTSKIRTS CAMBRIDGE
Secretarial Position
- scope to develop

We are looking for a calm, confident, self motivated secretary, who has excellent skills, is efficient, well organised and able to prioritise a varied workload. The right person will have sound knowledge of systems and accurate typing skills. A knowledge of spreadsheets and Windows 95 would be advantageous. Shorthand is essential and the individual should enjoy being a teamplayer and involvement.

To join a friendly, busy International Aviation company based outside Cambridge. Salary in the range of £13,000 - £17,000

Send CV with current salary details to Gill Martin, Fortis Aviation Group, Great Chesterford, Essex CB10 1PF

Up to £16,500 pa

Secretary/ Administrator

We are an expanding business services group requiring an energetic, enthusiastic secretary who can multi-task and deal confidently with clients. Strong organisational skills and a keen sense of humour essential.

Call Simon Mosert/Nick Lewis on 0171 416 7780 or fax CV on 0171 416 7652

Team Secretary/Admin
£18k + benefits

We require a well presented, fast, accurate typist, with Amipro experience to work in our prestigious offices in Knightsbridge. Excellent career prospects as this role develops. Please send CV and passport-sized photograph to:

The Personnel Manager
TTT Moneycorp Limited
2 Sloane Street
Knightsbridge
London SW1X 9LA

PERSONAL ASSISTANT/ SECRETARY
MAYFAIR OFFICE

The applicant should be a person of integrity, loyalty and with motivation and usual office skills, with a good telephone manner. Duties to commence a.s.a.p.

Send C.V. and 2 Referees to: 32 SHEPHERD ST
MAYFAIR
LONDON W1Y 7LJ

Young Media Secretaries

Junior Sec Advertising, W. End. Sec with Apple Mac	c.£12,000
Junior Secs Publishing. 3 secs needed in large SW1 co.	c.£12-13,000
Junior Sec Media-planning, W1. 50wpm + Excel	c.£12,000
Client Services Sec to £14,000 Advertising, W1. 50wpm + Windows	

Phone Adventure now on 0171 409 8982

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Are you an experienced Powerpoint operator or presentation secretary? Long or short term bookings available for West End and City clients. For an interview call Hazel Neale or Rachel Huggins at Tate Appointments on 0171 408 0424.

Tate
TEMP SPECIALISTS

MAINE-TUCKER
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PURE RECEPTION

£19,000 + Profit Share + Gym + Bonus + [illegible]

[illegible]

18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: [illegible]

Shorthand PA for World Famous Co:

In this role you will never be bored! Supporting a charismatic and dynamic Chairman and Managing Director you will have the confidence and expertise to liaise on a daily level with senior influential people. Your role will encompass providing full secretarial support, organising extensive travel itineraries, arranging in house lunches, organising cooks, waitresses and menus, and on occasions attending exhibitions.

For you to be considered for this exciting role you will need to be aged 26 - 40 with 90wpm shorthand, 60wpm typing, a knowledge or interest of wines would be helpful.

Salary is negotiable and benefits include; Life & Health Assurance + BUPA + Profit Related Bonus + Wine Allowance: Ref MB.

Exp or Trainee Consultant

If you have excellent communication skills and enjoy talking on the phone and meeting people then consider a career in recruitment, our clients range from small entrepreneurs to large multi-national organisations, terrific opportunity to get totally involved. Salary will be commensurate with age and experience/skills. Ref: MB

Tel: 0171 494 0448 Fax: 0171 494 0321 **HEADWAY** Recruitment

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PA TO VICE PRESIDENT
£24,000 + bens.

The VP, who is American, has overall responsibility for Europe & South Africa. His company is involved in the oil industry & has its HQ in the U.S. You will work with him not for him & have a lot of responsibility & fun coming your way. This is a proactive role for an intelligent, structured & resourceful PA who wishes to work as an equal in superb West End offices.

0171 493 2888.

HERITAGE
RECRUITMENT

FIRST CLASS PA
c£24,000 + *Super Benefits*
City

Chief Executive of prestigious Group of Companies requires a polished, well educated PA to run his office and that of his part-time Chairman. This position offers a total involvement from secretarial work to managing support staff. You will need to be an excellent communicator, a born organiser, plus have a minimum 90 wpm shorthand. If this sounds like you please ring

Tel: 0171 588 3055 Fax 0171 588 3066

MITCHELL YOUNG ASSOCIATES
Executive Secretarial Recruitment

OFFICE MANAGER - W1
£30,000 + Superb Benefits

This US Management Consultants seek an office manager from a corporate background. You will be responsible for the smooth running of the office (300 people) from the telephone system, post room through to suppliers & recruiting support staff. A strong personality & the ability to deal with people at all levels a must. This is a very busy & varied position that would suit a flexible & professional individual. Office Management or facilities experience is essential.

Harriet Gabb
RECRUITMENT
0171 222 [illegible]
Fax 0171 222 [illegible]

TEL: 0171 828 3838/FAX: 0171 828 3888.

1st/2nd jobbers.

We currently have a wide variety of positions all offering excellent career opportunities. You will be well educated with good presentation & above average skills.

Leading P.R. Co - £14,000
Publishing (Art) - £12,000
Property - £16,000
International Exec Search - 16,000
Luxury goods - £15,000
Investment - £13,000
Politics - £14,000
Advertising - 12,000

Call us now for immediate info - Sam or Jocelyn 0171 580 [illegible]

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

required for West End media recruitment and training consultancy company. Ability to use W4W, the web etc, organise the systems and run the show all needed. Friendly, open office. Good negotiable salary, college leaver considered. Flexible hours.

Cameron Latham Associates
Phone Vanessa [illegible]
0171-436-5834

ART WORLD
£25,000+

The influential, brilliant Chairman of leading international Art Gallery is looking for outstanding PA. Candidate must be charming, excellent eye for detail, quick, flexible and thrive in a demanding/pressurised environment. 90+ sh. good spoken French. Age: 25+. Ref:148

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MATURE OFFICE MANAGER/PA

£25,000 Negtotiable + package

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SOCIAL SECRETARY IN THE COMFORT ZONE

to £18,000 + good package

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Coordinators for the Beauty or Catering world

HEAVY ON THE ORGANISATION
LIGHT ON THE SECRETARIAL
to £15,000 + amazing perks

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A top UK job based in London
GLOBAL CHAIRMAN'S PA

c £30,000 + superb bonuses & package

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WANT TO BE YOUR OWN BOSS?

to £17,000 + parking + perks

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0171 680 6806

Crème de la Crème

Fax:
0171 782 7586

ROOM AT THE TOP

Support Staff Co-ordinator
(Maternity cover initially)

Up to £40,000

Our client, a prestigious American Investment Bank is looking to recruit a highly driven and professional, individual capable of co-ordinating the recruitment, training and development of secretaries and support staff within their Investment Banking Division. You will need to have first class communication skills to liaise at all levels, have proven problem solving, interviewing and people management abilities and be able to cope with a fast moving and sometimes stressful environment. Your team contribution, flexibility and initiative will be rewarded by working in this challenging and dynamic role. This position requires confidence and poise coupled with an out-going personality.

Please fax your CV in confidence to: 0171 814 0603 quoting ref. 207

Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer. All applicants are positively welcomed.

Angela Mortimer

International Flavour

to £18,000

Exciting opening in the City for a proactive secretary to support a charming Underwriting Manager who is responsible for developing new business opportunities abroad. You need to be a strong communicator and organiser who works well to tight deadlines. Skills: Word, Lotus and Freelance. Please call Katy Burke on 0171 390 7000.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

Fashionable People Personnel

£18 - 20,000

Well known Fashion House seeks a lively and enthusiastic graduate level team secretary. You will be the lynchpin to three managers which will involve setting up new systems, dealing with internal recruitment, co-ordinating diaries and travel as well as general correspondence and administration. If you have a minimum of two years experience with an interest in personnel, good WP skills and 55wpm please contact Lucy Thomas on 0171 434 4512.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

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Recruitment Consultants

Not The Usual Legal Job

£19 - 21,000 + Bens

Extremely proactive and energetic Executive Secretary is required to support a Senior International Attorney plus one associate within this dynamic and highly motivated company based within the heart and glamour of W1. If you are outgoing and enjoy extensive client liaison coupled with legal experience and some SH/Speedwriting call now Tara Lyons on 0171 434 4512.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

Fun with Figures

Stunning Offices
Upto £21,000

If you are a great organiser and enjoy working with figures, then this is the job for you. A fun, lively Finance Director of this large charity is looking for a senior PA/secretary to support him and his team. Juggle priorities, manage his diary and work life. An outgoing, responsible personality is necessary. Excellent shorthand and typing skills (80/60). Ideal age 30-40. Please call Camilla Loughton on 0171 434 4512.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

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Recruitment Consultants

Money, Money, Money...

Temps to £10.00 p/hr

Come and join our fantastic temp team and experience all the glamour and excitement the City has to offer. Choose the buzz of the trading floor or the intrigue of corporate finance and show them what a good team secretary is made of! Excellent windows packages. 55 wpm and the right attitude is all you need to get the best deal including top rates, overtime and AIR MILES awards. Call us now for an immediate interview and let us take you further than you ever thought possible.
0171-390 7000

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Crone Corkill
Temporary Recruitment

JOSLIN ROWE
secretarial recruitment consultants

TEAM SECRETARIES

c£18,000 + BENS **CITY**

Team secretaries are needed to work for prestigious city firms. Suitable candidates will be bright with a good education, enthusiastic and able to work well under pressure and to tight deadlines. As you will be working in a team, interpersonal skills, confidence and initiative are all essential qualities. Main duties will include audio and copy typing, presentation work, arranging travel, liaising with clients and looking after overseas visitors. If your are highly motivated with a willingness to learn, these roles could offer scope for progression. Shorthand skills and some knowledge of a language would be advantageous.

Joslin Rowe Associates Ltd
Bell Court House,
11 Blomfield Street, London EC2M 7AY
Telephone: 0171 588 7287 Facsimile: 0171 382 9417

JOSLIN ROWE
secretarial recruitment consultants

BILINGUAL SECRETARIES

c£22,000 + BENS **CITY**

We currently have several exciting opportunities for bright and professional linguists with good secretarial skills. The positions range from PA to team secretarial roles in banks, insurance firms and blue chip companies. Your languages will be used for telephone liaison, reading documents and in some cases composing correspondence. These are busy and demanding roles and duties will include arranging meetings and business trips. Fast typing speeds and good software knowledge (MS Word, Excel & Powerpoint) are essential, as is fluent English and relevant office experience. Good DTP skills and a flexibility as to hours would be especially useful for positions in Corporate Finance. We urgently need German and Italian speakers but would welcome applications from secretaries with excellent English and other European languages.

Joslin Rowe Associates Ltd
Bell Court House,
11 Blomfield Street, London EC2M 7AY
Telephone: 0171 588 7287 Facsimile: 0171 382 9417

JOSLIN ROWE
secretarial recruitment consultants

OPPORTUNITIES IN CORPORATE FINANCE

c£21,000 + BANK BENS **CITY**

We have a number of vacancies for secretaries to work in Corporate Finance within different city-based financial institutions. All the positions require excellent systems knowlege including W4W, Excel and Powerpoint, fast, accurate typing speeds (65wpm) and at least 5 GCSEs (Grade C or above). Flexibility with regards to working hours is essential along with the ability to prioritise and handle responsibility. Some of the positions require good working knowledge of German and others seek secretaries with shorthand. Previous experience in Corporate Finance is desired but if you have worked in a financial environment at senior level and feel that this is the area in which you will thrive, please contact us immediately.

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Bell Court House,
11 Blomfield Street, London EC2M 7AY
Telephone: 0171 588 7287 Facsimile: 0171 382 9417

JOSLIN ROWE
secretarial recruitment consultants

OPPORTUNITIES IN COMPLIANCE

c£21,000 + BANK BENS **CITY/DOCKLANDS**

We have a number of vacancies based in Compliance working for various City Investment companies each requiring strong organisational and administrative skills and experience within this area. Candidates will be expected to take on a variety of projects so they must be proactive, enthusiastic and ambitious. A recognised secretarial qualification and speeds of at least 60 wpm for audio and copy typing are essential for general correspondence coupled with a good education and solid work history. Advanced knowledge of Word for Windows, Powerpoint and Excel. One of these roles requires a basic understanding of German.

Joslin Rowe Associates Ltd
Bell Court House,
11 Blomfield Street, London EC2M 7AY
Telephone: 0171 588 7287 Facsimile: 0171 382 9417

JOSLIN ROWE
secretarial recruitment consultants

AMBITIOUS PA

c£20,000 + BANK BENS **CITY**

High recognised Investment Services Company are currently looking to recruit an ambitious, independent and confident senior secretary to work in the Sales and Client Services department for a team of up to four. There is a chance to develop beyond the secretarial sphere, candidates must be at degree level, have 5 years secretarial experience, confident on spreadsheet work and graphics. Other duties shall include travel arrangements, diary management, typing reports and presentation work. This is a temp to perm position, starting mid May.

Joslin Rowe Associates Ltd
Bell Court House,
11 Blomfield Street, London EC2M 7AY
Telephone: 0171 588 7287 Facsimile: 0171 382 9417

HIGHLY RATEABLE!

Temping that adds up

£15.00ph
- *5-6 yrs' PA experience at Chairman/Board Director level*
- *120 wpm shorthand/70wpm typing/audio*
- *Advanced Word for Windows, Excel(incl. macros) and DTP skills*
- *Excellent organisational skills*

£12.50ph
- *3-4 yrs' PA experience at Director level*
- *100+ wpm shorthand/60-wpm typing/audio*
- *Advanced Word for Windows, Powerpoint (or Freelance) and Excel*

£10.00ph
- *1-2 yrs' PA level experience at Director level*
- *80 wpm shorthand/55 wpm typing/audio*
- *Advanced Word for Windows, Excel, intermediate Powerpoint*

£9.00ph
- *1-2 yrs' team level secretarial experience*
- *55wpm typing*
- *Advanced Word for Windows and intermediate Excel*

As a Crone Corkill temporary secretary your skills will always be recognised by us and rewarded with the best hourly rates in London. We match everyone's individual skills to the right assignment and ensure you receive the rate you deserve.

+ Plus we offer you opportunities to explore the world of high finance in the City with its fast moving pace and frequent long hours - good for the bank balance! Alternatively, the West End provides a wealth of different industries from media to marketing in plcs and private companies.

+ In addition, we are the only agency in London to give our temporary team AIR MILES* awards for every hour worked.

+ If you have language skills we have a specialist language division to find you work.

= The sum total of this is can you afford not to register with Crone Corkill?

£ RING US NOW ON:

0171-390 7000	0171-390 7000	0171-434 4512
City	Multilingual	West End

*AIR MILES and the Flying Boat logo are trademarks of AIR MILES International Holdings N.V. AIR MILES awards are held and issued for use subject to AIR MILES Customer Terms and Conditions.

AIR MILES Travel the World

Crone Corkill
Temporary Recruitment

PA/ administrator

£20,000 – International Corporation

The company: High profile organisation, operating globally within fast-moving markets.

The role: Director-level; looking after travel, diary, presentation material etc in an exciting 'marketing driven' environment.

The essentials: Strong organising and communication skills; ability to deal at all levels; MS Office skills.

Please call 0171-494 4466 or fax 0171-494 4499.

GORDON·YATES

PA TO MD

to £22,000

The company: Specialist in exclusive retail services, with outlets in London's most prestigious department stores.

The role: To provide focused, dedicated one-to-one support to a highly regarded, hard working female MD.

The essentials: Advanced W4W and Excel; accurate typing (60wpm); proven career commitment.

Please call 0171-494 4466 or fax 0171-494 4499.

GORDON·YATES

ARE YOU A WINNER?

Intelligent Admin/Secs needed - £18K

The company: Top ranking, prestigious investment capital company.

The role: Providing pro-active admin/sec support to a high performing team; working for two executives, helping with their portfolios.

The essentials: Strong secretarial background (ideally blue chip); A-level calibre; numerate; 55wpm typing.

Please call 0171-494 4466 or fax 0171-494 4499.

GORDON·YATES

HELP ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE

Customer Relations Manager - £22K package

The company: Innovative, exciting conference services company based in SE1.

The role: Providing the best possible service to 'blue chip' clients, setting the standards of excellence in a competitive market.

The essentials: Graduate-calibre team player, with proven experience within a similar customer service role; confidence; stamina!

Please call 0171-494 4466 or fax 0171-494 4499.

GORDON·YATES

Judy Farquharson Ltd.

PUBLISHING - PRODUCTION ASSISTANT Excellent opportunity for a graduate to gain production experience with a magazine publishers. Must have 6 months' + production experience and 50wpm typing. Quark and Pagemaker an advantage. £12-14,000.

MARKETING ASSISTANT Well known international luxury good company requires a graduate with 50wpm typing, excellent organisational skills and lots of initiative to assist the Marketing Manager. Immediate start. £12,000.

PR - ACCOUNT ASSISTANT A fantastic break into PR for a graduate with a corporate and consumer PR agency. Must have 6 months' + office experience and 50wpm typing. Immediate start. £12,000.

Please fax or send CV's to Juliette Wood.

47 New Bond St, London W1Y 9HA
Tel: 0171-493 8824 Fax: 0171-493 7161
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

JFL

SEC CO-ORDINATOR

c.£16,000 + EXC BENS

Very dynamic, fun & rapidly growing Mgmt. Consultants Division seek an organised sec to work as part of their lively team in a high admin role. You will be using your initiative in dealing with clients, project mgmt & implementing systems. Extensive co-ordinating of hectic diaries & schedules along with your own area of resps. Exc opp for 2nd jobber sec with 60wpm audio to shine & progress. Maths/Eng C+, MS Word & knowledge of P/Point.

Call Jacqui

NEXT EMPLOYMENT
TEL: 0171 287 3664 **FAX: 0171 287 3564**

PA /Secretary

c£20,000

A dynamic, global telecommunications company requires a flexible PA for a varied role. Excellent Word for Windows, PowerPoint, and Excel skills are a must together with the ability to cope with pressure. This position offers a competitive salary and excellent benefits. Shorthand is desirable but not essential.

REED
For Executive Secretarial positions in The West End,
Tel: 0171 224 2820

For over 1,000 jobs, visit http://www.reed.co.uk

Shorthand PA

c£20,000

An excellent opportunity to support the Financial Director of this metals company. Candidates will possess a flexible attitude to work and a good command of English, both written and verbal. Advanced secretarial skills essential with 3-4 years' senior level experience, W4W, Excel, PowerPoint and a minimum of 50 wpm.

REED
For Executive Secretarial positions in The City,
Tel: 0171 638 1666

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LATE IN THE CITY TONIGHT AT 12 DEVONSHIRE ROW, EC2, (LIVERPOOL STREET) 4.30 - 7.30

Come and join our Senior Consultants for a glass of wine and find out more about the many exciting opportunities they have on offer. Current vacancies cover a wide section of industry from Banking to the Arts World and as we specialise in senior appointments the salaries are all over £20,000. If you are unable to join us, please call to book an appointment.

Caroline Butcher on
0171 499 5881

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SICK OF 'RUN OF THE MILL' SECRETARIAL WORK?

WONDER WHY YOU EVER DID 'THAT COURSE'

FED UP WITH AGENCIES?

We do not promise to be miracle workers, but for candidates cf41 good secretarial skills (min 50 wpm & Word for Windows), personality, an international outlook and the right attitude, we can guarantee the following:

- ● clients who offer genuine career prospects.
- ● constructive meetings with friendly and helpful consultants who listen and take note of your requirements and aspirations.
- ● interviews with clients who you will want to see
- ● access to dynamic and interesting environments where you will be working with like-minded people.
- ● clients who appreciate top-calibre candidates and reward your invaluable contribution with generous salaries and benefits.
- ● benefits often include: excellent bonus schemes, paid overtime, mortgage subsidy/housing allowance, gym and restaurant facilities.

SEE HOW WE PRACTICE WHAT OTHERS PREACH
Call us now!

Tel: 0171-355 1975/0171-734 3380
Fax: 0171-499 0568

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c£16,000

"PROACTIVE IN PR"

This is a rare opportunity for a bright secretary *(min. 18 mths. exp.) to join this top PR Consultancy.* Supporting two dynamic individuals your role will be extremely varied and will include extensive client and media liaison, diary management as well as putting together press releases and presentations. In the absence of your bosses you will be expected to use your initiative as you will be the first point of call for their clients. You must be an outgoing individual who is a confident communicator and has solid secretarial skills. A genuine interest in PR is advantageous. Please call Claire Hawker.

0171 225 1888

VICTORIA WALL ASSOCIATES

Hectic Trading Floor x 5

To £20,000 + MS + Bens.

Various excellent openings exist for Sales Assistants/ Secretaries/ Research Assistants to work within some of London's leading Investment Banks. The roles will require banking experience, MS Office knowledge and confident personalities. All positions involve client contact and admin back-up.

Please contact Melinda Marks

Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd,
Financial Recruitment Consultants
No.1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP
Tel: 0171 623 1266 Fax: 0171 626 5259

CHEERS!

£25k + plus bens

A unique opportunity has arisen at this Internationally renowned drinks company for an Executive PA. You will be working with a Senior Vice President of HR who's remit includes worldwide policy decisions as well as a strategic business focus. You must have at least 5 years experience of working with a senior HR professional within a global environment. Computer literacy in Word for Windows 6.0, Powerpoint and Excel is essential together with the ability to remain calm under pressure and maintain absolute discretion at all times. Put the fizz back into your job and call Natalie Dowling 0171 434 4512.

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Recruitment Consultants

VIBRANT, FAST PACED AND FUN! NATIONAL NEWSPAPER

£17,500 + SUPER BENEFITS

Three tip top young secretaries who would respond to a relaxed but deadline orientated environment are required by one of the country's leading newspapers. Make your mark and use your initiative within a team spirited and vibrant division of young people where progression is always a possibility. A true mixed bag of duties where shorthand, if you have it, would be useful.

Call Acme appts now on 0171 823 3883
or fax on 0171 283 3427

to make an appointment

Marketing Magic c£20,000 p.a.

Sensible, motivated, versatile PA (mid 20's) to look after young, dynamic Director of leading Mktg Co. You will need bags of energy, confidence, proven organisational skills & p.c. literacy, as well as experience in related environment.

Senior PA c£23,000 p.a.

Perfect PA skills combined with angelic admin. are essential in assisting this multifaceted MD of prestigious corp. finance co. in all aspects of his business/personal life. Diplomacy & a 'softly softly' approach will ensure you thrive in this diversified role!

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NEW LABOUR?

The election may be over but your opportunities are just beginning!

We require

PA / SECRETARIES

from all different industries to fill a variety of posts.

Your main skills should be a good secretarial background with a minimum typing speed of 60wpm, with W4W. Excel and ideally Powerpoint. If you have shorthand and foreign languages, in addition to the above, this will prove to be an advantage. Vote for yourself! And call Sam now for an appointment.

Tel: 0171 287 0220
Portman Recruitment
181 Oxford St
London W1
Fax: 0171 287 1060

PORTMAN
West End 0171-287 0220

ESTATE AGENCY RECRUITMENT

PROPERTY PA

Req'd to work for a prestigious Kensington Agency. Good typing & communication skills essential. Needs to be enthusiastic, well presented and hold a keen interest in property.
Salary £16K
For more info CALL: 0171 938 3855
Estate Agency Recruitment

BANKING PA

£24K + Bens

Our client urgently needs a bright, articulate, organised pro active PA to assist this newly appointed Director. Some banking background essen together with good sec skills inc Shorthand. Call Christina 0171 600 6220 Gray & Assoc Rec Fax 0171 600 6221.

TOP NOTCH PA 21k + EXCELLENT BENS

Int. Management Consultants seek PA for the European Director. Organising travel, diary, meetings, functions and client liaisons. A confident articulate individual. Any EUROPEAN LANGUAGE an advantage. Solid career background. W4W 60wpm & Powerpoint. Age 27-40.
LINK PEOPLE
88 KINGSWAY, WC2B 6AA
TEL: 0171 209 9898
FAX: 0171 209-9897.

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Telephone:
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Fax:
0171 782 7586

Aldrich & Company

COMPLIANCE ADMINISTRATOR
£22,000 + Overtime & Banking Bens

Co-ordinate meetings, prepare research, draft minutes, set up systems, correspond and liaise with the city regulatory bodies - managing the constant flow of information. You will need superb organisational skills, must think on your feet and have a professional attitude - Ring **Emily Aldrich** to fix an immediate interview.

CITY RECRUITMENT
Tel: 0171 588 8999 Fax: 0171 588 8998

Aldrich & Company

SECRETARY TO A SENIOR DIRECTOR
£21,000 + Overtime & Banking Bens

A Senior Director requires a confident secretary to whom *he can delegate projects. Excellent scope to use initiative* and be pro-active. Full involvement and responsibility with extensive client liaison, organising corporate events and ensuring the smooth running of the office. Call **Emma Silverman.**

CITY RECRUITMENT
Tel: 0171 588 8999 Fax: 0171 588 8998

Aldrich & Company

WINNING ALL THE PRIZES
Package of £30,000

Don't settle for second best. A team of top rated *investment bankers require a PA to run their office.* They are a close knit team and need you to be totally involved in the running of their high profile deals; liaising with bankers, heads of industry and governments world wide. How ambitious are you? Call **Emily Aldrich.**

CITY RECRUITMENT
Tel: 0171 588 8999 Fax: 0171 588 8998

Aldrich & Company

PERSONAL ASSISTANT IN DESIGN PR
to £21,000 + Bens

This PR design company is looking for a young PA who enjoys working in a small dynamic environment. An easy going 'punchy' team player would fit in perfectly. If you enjoy project work, setting up systems and client contact and you want to move *out of* banking this would be the perfect role for you. Call Alex *Gaze*

CITY RECRUITMENT
Tel: 0171 588 8999 Fax: 0171 588 8998

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£££ unlimited earning potential
Private Health Care, Personalised Training Programme
Excellent Career Opportunities

Are you a self starter with strong sales and inter-personal skills, who wants the freedom to use your own initiative and flair? If the answer is yes, then we have an excellent opportunity for you to move their career in the right direction with one of Britains fastest growing recruitment consultancies.

You will have 12 months commercial recruitment experience preferably in the West End, you will be a high achiever who enjoys earning a healthy income through working in partnership with clients. We need a professional individual to build even stronger business relationships with our prestigious portfolio of clients through dedicated client development, our client base is the envy of many.

The West End team are a highly dedicated and ambitious team, who like to work and play hard. If you feel you have the drive and determination to become a part of our team then contact:

VICKI SPRIGHT, OPERATIONS MANAGER
WORK: 0171 499 8112
HOME: 0181 850 2920

PA/GROUP SECRETARY PUBLIC RELATIONS £19,000 + BUPA

Have you an interest in PR? Wanting an involved role? Superb opportunity for a well educated Secretary 28+ to pro-actively assist three Directors in International Department handling top medical clients. High admin content, organising travel, hotels, currency, etc, *extensive international telephone contact with* clients (a European language useful) as is previous medical or drug experience, Windows/Excel. A fabulous chance to join a fabulous company! Please call Sandy or fax CV to

Rainbow Recruitment
12 South Molton Street, London W1Y 1DF
Tel: 0171 491 7252 Fax: 0171 491 2887

RECRUITMENT MANAGER INT'L PUBLIC RELATIONS CO TO £30,000 + PACKAGE

Our prestigious International clients are seeking an experienced Recruitment Manager to join small HR function. It is essential that the successful applicant will be mid-thirties and have a minimum of four years' experience in recruitment and selection gained in either an HR Department of a Blue Chip Service Company or within the media industry. They will also need to be a dynamic self-starter with excellent inter-personal skills and the ability to liaise at all levels within the organisation. Degree standard of education. IPD qualified preferable. An excellent career move! *Please call Sandy or fax CV to*

Rainbow Recruitment
12 South Molton Street, London W1Y 1DF
Tel: 0171 491 7252 Fax: 0171 491 2887

PA/SEC TO DIRECTOR POLITICAL PR COMPANY £18,000

A professional, experienced Secretary with an interest in the political scene is sought by Senior Director of small W1 PR Company specialising in top profile clients, including the political arena. Main skills required are A1 secretarial ability, maturity, common sense, sense of humour, together with a cool head and a calm disposition. Some supervision of staff, plus liaising with outside contractors. Lovely, varied role! Please call Sandy or fax CV to

Rainbow Recruitment
12 South Molton Street, London W1Y 1DF
Tel: 0171 491 7252 Fax: 0171 491 2887

PA/SECRETARY TO CHAIRMAN FASHION HOUSE £25,000 + SUPERB PERKS!

Job of the year! Top Fashion Chain seeks a top PA 25-35 to work alongside Chairman in superb surroundings. We *are looking for a really confident, professional, friendly,* fast thinking PA with excellent secretarial skills 100/60 and a very capable attitude. Ideal applicant will possess A1 admin skills to organise extensive foreign travel itineraries, functions and conferences as well as attend to some personal work. Terrific discounts. This really is a job in a million! Please call Sandy or fax CV to

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THE RECRUITMENT BUSINESS

The Recruitment Business specialises in recruiting administrative, secretarial, DTP and Apple Mac staff. We have over 30 years recruitment experience and you won't find a more professional dedicated and down to earth team.

For a personal approach, professional advice and honest answers call Bernadette Sturley on:

0171-405 2340

Marketing Secretary
W1

£15,000 + Bens
Large accountancy firm need an *experienced Secretary to work within* their busy marketing dept. You will need 2 yrs exp in a sec role with a high admin content: 45 wpm typing + W4W. Powerpoint and Excel useful. Training given.

Temps
£6.00 - 9.00 p.h.
We are expecting a busy summer and need temps with experience of the following: Typing 50 wpm/Switchboard any WP package and a flexible approach.

CONTACT SIÁN COUCHMAN
TEL 0171-405 2340
FAX 0171-831 2999

MARKETING ADMIN SEC £16K + EXC BENS

Exc opp. for a young sec to join a top Int'l co. within a lively Marketing dept. Supporting an "Executive" team, you'll be involved in organising seminars/events, liaising with Ad/PR agencies + journalists, administration + distribution of publications, preparing presentations and general sec duties. You'll need to be bright, on the ball, able to take on responsibility to cope in a multi-task environment. 55wpm WP + 1yrs sec exp ess.

NEXT EMPLOYMENT
TEL: 0171 287 3664 FAX: 0171 287 3564

SECRETARY/PA

Search & Selection Team

c. £15,000

London EC1

Charity Recruitment is a dynamic, friendly recruitment consultancy based in its own Victorian house in EC1. The Search & Selection team handles recruitment campaigns for chief executives and directors of charities. This is exciting and demanding work requiring a high level of professionalism from all members of the team.

We seek an experienced, committed PA to support the senior consultants, someone with high standards of presentation and administration, a confident and courteous telephone manner, flexibility and humour. Knowledge of recruitment or the voluntary sector would be an advantage.

You will preferably be educated to A level, with secretarial training and at least three years' office experience. As well as accurate 50 wpm typing you will have an orderly approach, be able to organise complex timetables, and use your initiative.

Everyone's role is valued at Charity Recruitment, and we offer the chance for participation along with the prospect of profit share, four weeks holiday, and some flexibility on hours. Please send your CV with a covering letter marked 'Personal and Confidential' to Ms Olga Johnson, Chief Executive, Charity Recruitment, 40 Rosebery Avenue, London EC1R 4RN. Closing date 30 May 1997.

CR
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COBY PHILIPS
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Senior Secretary £23K -

Free lunch + BUPA are just some of the benefits! Global investment Co. in SW1 require a senior Sec to support MD & his small team. Demanding & varied role, would suit experienced 'unflappable' Secretary, looking for a challenge. Rusty sh. W4W + Powerpoint are a must. Call today for further details on

0171 287 6116 or Fax your CV on 0171 287 6556.

CONFERENCE ADMIN £15K + 30 days hols. + more.

Get involved in conference administration with this specialist publishing and training co. You will be computer literate, with 60+ wpm, W4W and be happy with a high typing content.

Tel: 0171 287 2044
Fax: 0171 287 3717
MIDDLETON JEFFERS
RECRUITMENT LIMITED

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT c£22K

European office of American corp. seeks assistant for Senior VP responsible for development and monitoring of international operations. A varied role including research, worldwide liaison and some sec. support for a reliable self-starter. MS Office/Internet.

Tel: 0171 287 2044
Fax: 0171 287 3717
MIDDLETON JEFFERS
RECRUITMENT LIMITED

RECEPTIONIST Circa £16K

Busy international consultancy seeks a smart, polished individual with an excellent telephone manner who is calm under pressure. Reception or customer service exp. an advantage but not ess.

Tel: 0171 287 2044
Fax: 0171 287 3717
MIDDLETON JEFFERS
RECRUITMENT LIMITED

EXCEPTIONAL PA £20,000

Golden opportunity to assist Partner within leading W1 Co - full involvement, interact with clients, personal work. Enjoy great surroundings. 55wpm typ. MW Word, 24-35yrs.

Val Wade Rec Cons.
0171 437 3793

PA TO ENTREPRENEUR SW7

Exciting opportunity for flexible, enthusiastic and detail-orientated person who is looking for variety and responsibility and is willing to learn. Salary negotiable.

If you are up to this challenge, Please Reply to Box No 4768

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FOOTBALL

Robson plans final seal of approval

By Oliver Holt, Football Correspondent

BOBBY ROBSON could take a giant step towards seeing out his contract as the Barcelona coach next season if the Catalan club can beat Paris Saint-Germain in the European Cup Winners' Cup final in Rotterdam tonight.

Robson, under pressure in Spain almost since the day that the season began and widely assumed to be an imminent casualty of the arrival of Louis van Gaal from Ajax, was the toast of the city on Saturday night after Barcelona had beaten Real Madrid 1-0 in front of 115,000 people in the Nou Camp.

The result left Barcelona five points adrift of Real in the Spanish league with five games to play, and with the odds still in favour of Josep Lluís Núñez, the Barcelona president, bringing in Van Gaal at the end of the season under the cover of a new management structure.

However, if Robson can boost his standing even further with victory tonight, and give Barcelona their fourth triumph in the competition, it will grow increasingly difficult and embarrassing for Núñez to dispense with the services of a coach who has already brought him much success.

Whatever the result, it is likely that Robson's position will become clearer later this week, when the extent of his achievements becomes clear and Núñez no longer feels bound to keep quiet on his intentions, so as not to disturb the club's preparations.

If Núñez decides to press on with his plans to bring in Van Gaal, Robson will seek clarification of his position and may be driven into the arms of Everton. The prospect of succeeding Tommy Burns at Celtic does not interest the former England manager as much as that of succeeding Joe Royle at Goodison Park.

Robson and his players had to be evacuated from a jet at Barcelona airport on Monday when a bomb threat was made against the aircraft that was to carry them to Rotterdam. It only exacerbated Robson's acute problem of lack of preparation.

"We are suffering from the fact that we had to play Real Madrid on Saturday," Robson said. "We were back in training the next day, but Paris Saint-Germain cancelled their last game and have been getting ready for this match for 12 days. They have been in Holland for several days.

"It is a big game for me and the club. We are in the final of the Spanish Cup, too, the first time the club has ever been in two major finals in one season, and it would be fantastic to bring some silverware back. All the politicking takes some of the shine off things, but I just want to get on with my job."

Barcelona will be without Miguel Angel Nadal, their hard-tackling central defender, who was sent off in the second leg of their semi-final victory over Fiorentina, and are concerned about the fitness of Giovanni, who was injured against Real.

Giovanni is one of four Brazilians whose possible involvement in the final has aroused enormous interest in his homeland — Brazil is among 156 countries televising a final that is likely to attract a worldwide audience of 350 million. Most eyes will be on his team-mate, Ronaldo, the striker who is widely acclaimed as the world's finest player, while Paris will be looking to Leonardo and Rai for inspiration.

Paris, the conquerors of Liverpool in the semi-finals, are bidding to become the first team to win the competition in successive seasons and are placing much of their faith in the form of Patrice Loko, their forward.

Loko, who joined Paris from Nantes in the summer of 1995, is the top scorer this season with 15 goals, despite a troubled start to his career at the club. Together with the capricious Núñez, he is likely to be the main threat to Robson's hopes of extending his reign in Spain beyond the end of this season. Everton will be willing Loko on.

TEAMS

BARCELONA (probable): V Baia, Sergi, L Blanc, Abelardo, A Ferrer, J Guardiola, Luis Enrique, I de la Peña, H Stoichkov, L Figo, Ronaldo

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN (probable): B Lama; L Fournier, B N'Gotty, P Le Guen, J Algerino, J Leroy, B Cauet, V Guerin, Leonardo, Rai, P Loko.

Lodge seeks shelter from final spotlight

Russell Kempson on the Wembley referee helping to maintain Barnsley's profile

The southern-based, stereotypical concept of Barnsley — flat caps, whippet racing and the like — has all but been demolished. What the South Yorkshire town has not lost is its passion for football, a tradition that stretches back to 1887.

Although the club has always existed in the lower reaches of the Football League, comfortably catering for the whims of its devotees, it has never dined at the top table. Until now. Danny Wilson led his side into the FA Carling Premiership this season and Barnsley, almost overnight, became big news. It is a town very much alive and kicking, already impatient for the start of the new season in August.

"Promotion has been the best form of advertising we've ever had," Stephen Lodge, a committee administrator for the Metropolitan Borough Council of Barnsley, said. "Its knock-on effect has been tremendous and we've had numerous enquiries, even from abroad, about inward investment. If many of them turn into jobs, it'll be a great step in the right direction."

FA CUP

JUSTIN SLEE

Lodge reaches the pinnacle of his sporting career in the FA Cup Final on Saturday

Lodge, 44, a supporter for 35 years, shares the excitement. He is also responsible, in a more minor role, for the continuing interest shown in Barnsley this week: why a succession of camera crews have trodden a path to the imposing town hall, built in 1933, long after Wilson's conquerors had been honoured at a civic reception. On Saturday, Lodge will referee the FA Cup Final between Chelsea and Middlesbrough.

It is the pinnacle of 25 years in black (and, latterly, other colours), a career that began when the National Reserve Club, a side that he helped to form, decided that they could do without their less-than-promising teenage full back. "I wasn't picked for a friendly match and they didn't have a ref either, so I got the job," Lodge said. "I didn't seem to have any problems and I quite enjoyed it.

"Perhaps it was the power of it all. A young lad with a whistle, making sure all these big blokes did as they were told. Maybe if I'd had any trouble, I'd have chucked it in straight away ... and I wouldn't now be going to Wembley."

Lodge became a Football League linesman in 1984, via the Midland and Central leagues, and is in his eleventh season as a referee amid the professional ranks. He has officiated in the Premiership and in Europe for five years, visiting 26 countries, and takes charge of the Norway-Brazil international in Oslo later this month.

Combining work and play is not easy — at the general election, in Barnsley Central, he was assistant to the acting deputy returning officer — but he has sympathetic employers. Keeping fit is less awkward. He plays squash every day, to county league first division standard, and often with Suzanne Horner, his regular playing partner and the former British women's No 1.

After attracting unwelcome attention last season, by issuing the highest average number of cautions per Premiership game, Lodge has maintained a relatively low profile, yet he still believes that the spotlight is becoming unbearable. "Years ago, it was an honour to do a televised game," he said. "Now, you want to avoid it like the plague.

"I understand the pressures on chairmen, managers and players, I accept that, but it's becoming a vicious circle and it's so easy to blame us. The longer you're in a job the easier it should get. In refereeing, it's directly opposite. The pace of the game is getting faster and with all the new and amended laws to think about, we're soon going to need computers."

Wembley will be a special occasion for Lodge and his wife, Susan, and son James, five, yet little can compare with the frequently fraught 90 minutes when Barnsley secured promotion by beating Bradford City 2-0 at Oakwell last month. "It was one of the best days of my life, unforgettable," Lodge said. "And, yes, along with everyone else, I did shout at the ref."

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CAMBRIDGE Top PA £25-30,000 required for Cambridge based international computer software firm working for a young, high flying Chief Executive. You must be IT literate, well educated, used to a fast moving environment and keen to develop your responsibilities. Senior level experience in an entrepreneurial set up preferred. Skills 80/60. Please call Angela Mortimer Plc (Rec Cons) on 0171 814 0800.

COVENT GARDEN. Experienced legal secretary required by small firm. MS Word. Please reply to to Box No 4904

DIRECTOR'S PA to £19,500 + Exc Bens W1 Architects/Int. Design Co. PA to 2 Directors 50% admin. Prev. Snr. level exp + 60 wpm audio/Windows nec. Excel /Pagemaker an adv. Amanda G. Next Emp 0171 287 3664.

EVENING receptionist/secretary required at a leading US Law Firm based close to Liverpool Street. Busy frontline position for a confident and friendly 'multi-tasker'. Hours 4.30pm-12.30am. Good Wordperfect 5.1 (Dos), 50 wpm typing. £19,000 + paid o/t. Call Sarah Burt on 0171 390 7000. Crone Corkill Rec Cons.

EVENING secretaries to work either 6pm - 12am or 8pm - 2am at a Legal Firm located in Finsbury Square. Very high typing content so at least 60 wpm. £19,500 + paid o/t. Call Sarah Burt on 0171 390 7000. Crone Corkill Rec Cons.

EVENING & Weekend WP OP for City Law firm. WP 5.1. Evenings 5pm to 12mid. Weekends daytime. Excellent Salary by neg. Legal exp. ess. Tel. 0171 - 556 7075. fax 0171 - 556 7475. Roberts & Young Agy.

EXPERIENCED Secretary required for Mayfair Retail Gallery. Tel: 0171 493 7766.

FAMOUS Architects seek PA for Director 25 - 35. Great W.1. offices. Relevant exp helpful. 0171 - 556 7075 fax 0171 - 556 7475 Roberts & Young Agy.

FILM INDUSTRY PA c£20,000 W1 Later hours to suit USA connections 2pm-9pm. 60+ wpm typ. Wordperfect. 90/100 shorthand ess. Call 0171 287 2044/Fax 287 3717 Middleton Jeffers Rec. Ltd.

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GRAD Sec £21K + B. Bens. Int'l Bank support Director + team. Diary mgmt, travel, office admin. Involved, org. position. 60wpm audio Fania Next Empl 0171 287 3664

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HARLOW Dynamic Director urgently seeks True "high flying" PA Sec. You will be mature (25+) boasting "people skills" and love decision making & organising. Influential Co - to £20,000 aae + 25 days Hols. and perks. Fax 0171 - 556 7475 Tel. 0171 - 556 7075. Roberts & Young Agy.

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Fax 0171 434 1123.

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Please ring Anita 0171 581 3358.

SHOWROOM MANAGERESS.
We need an articulate, well presented person to run our busy Knightsbridge shop and showroom. Our shop sells childrens fabric and nursery accessories. We need you to be calm and confident with good telephone manner. Experience essential.
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PART-TIME & Full Time sales assistant required for specialist fabric showroom. Previous experience essential. Tel: 0171-731-0444 for an interview.

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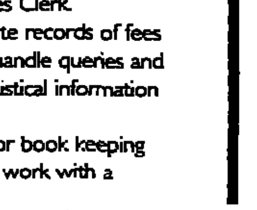

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EQUESTRIANISM

Windsor switch dims cup hopes

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

THE Royal Windsor Horse Show, which begins today in its traditional and spectacular setting in Home Park, at the foot of Windsor Castle, has assumed an added significance as the host of the British round of the Nations Cup.

Showing classes, dressage, international driving and showjumping make up a hectic schedule over the next five days. The show, which has attracted a record 3,138 entries, cost £1 million to put on and will, in the words of Michael Bullen, the chairman, be "the biggest and best horse show in the world".

In contrast to Hickstead, which lost its chance to stage the Nations Cup because of a lack of sponsorship, Windsor is enjoying a resurgence in popularity. Three leading sponsors, Hildron, Land Rover and Samsung, have joined long-time supporters such as Harrods and Beneficial. More than £200,000 has been invested in improving facilities, including the provision of two extra rings.

The acquisition of the Nations Cup could not have been more timely. BCM Worldwide, the show's co-organisers, was intending to bring back international showjumping this year after 24 years. When the Nations Cup became available six weeks ago, it seized the opportunity.

The competition, which involves Ireland, Germany, Belgium, Britain and Holland, takes place on Sunday afternoon. Britain, having failed to reach the second round in the opening Nations Cup event at La Baule in France last weekend, is taking no chances. Four top riders — Nick Skelton, Michael Whitaker, Geoff Billington and Robert Smith — make up the team that will attempt to win the Prince of Wales Cup for the third successive year.

Skelton, who had the only clear round in La Baule on Tinka's Boy, will ride either Showtime, his Olympic mare, or Zalza, who is fully recovered from the colic that kept him out of the World Cup event in Sweden two weeks ago. Whitaker is trying out Virtual Village Ashley in his first Nations Cup. Billington has Virtual Village It's Otto, on which he had the only double clear last year, and Smith relies on Tees Hanauer, the winner of the Olympia World Cup qualifier in December. John Whitaker, runner-up in the World Cup, asked to be excused in order to give Welham a rest.

For Ronnie Massarella, now in his 26th year as team manager, a win on Sunday is "doubly important" after the disappointment last weekend, but with Ireland and Holland fielding strong teams, he does not underestimate the task. "Although it's on home ground it'll be strange home ground," he said. "Hickstead suited our riders whereas Windsor is an unknown quantity. The arena is very different."

The organisers are trying hard to minimise the difference, at least in terms of the going. In recent years the state of the main arena, which has to cope with the rigours of the King's Troop display, has been a contentious issue with the riders. This year, for the first time, Windsor is employing an outside contractor to ensure that the ground is in the best condition.

Prize-money over the five days totals £150,000 with £40,000 going to the Grand Prix winner on Friday evening. Tomorrow sees the first of the four international team trials, which have been introduced by the British Show Jumping Association to try to produce a fairer selection process for the European championships this summer. A league table will be produced after the last trial in July using the best three results gained by each combination.

The Harrods International Driving Grand Prix, in which the Duke of Edinburgh competes in the pony teams section and George Bowman attempts a ninth consecutive win in the horse team event, also begins tomorrow.

Graf leaps to conquer Rubin while making a successful comeback in the German Open in Berlin, after recovering from a knee injury

TENNIS

Sampras put out in the first round

PETE SAMPRAS, the No 1 seed, was knocked out of the Italian Open in the first round yesterday, going down 7-6, 6-4 to Jim Courier on a historic day in Rome.

A few hours after Michael Chang, the world No 2, crashed out at the hands of Hernan Gumy, of Argentina, the world No 1 also found himself on the Foro Italico's centre court scrap heap.

It was the first time in the history of the tournament, which goes back to 1930, that the two top seeds have gone out in the first round.

Sampras broke Courier in the first game but Courier, who won the tournament in 1992 and 1993, immediately broke back and it took a tie-break to separate them.

However, the second set was a very different affair, with Courier breaking Sampras for 4-1 before serving out for 5-1.

Sampras, who has won three tournaments this year but lost his first match of the clay court season at Monte Carlo last month, finally clicked into gear to serve out for 5-2, break for 5-3 and serve for 5-4.

But it was all too late. Sampras sent a lob too long for match point and he could only return Courier's powerful drive into the net.

A rusty Steffi Graf, making her comeback from a knee injury yesterday, struggled past Chanda Rubin in three sets to reach the third round of the German Open in Berlin. Graf, battling to control her shaky strokes throughout the match, lost eight of the first nine points before recovering to beat the American 6-3, 3-6, 6-1.

"I just never found the right shot," said Graf, the top seed and defending champion.

Results .... Page 45

IN BRIEF

Botham left out of tour party

LIAM BOTHAM, the West Hartlepool centre, has missed out on the England Under-21 rugby union tour to Australia that starts next month, despite figuring on the fringes of the side this season. The son of Ian Botham, the former England cricket all-rounder, can now concentrate on his cricket with Windhill, the Bradford League side.

Chris Murphy, Botham's West Hartlepool team-mate, is the favourite to captain the powerful squad. The captain has not yet been appointed, but Murphy, a 6ft 8in second-row forward, performed with distinction during this season's home international series.

Full tour party, page 45

☐ **Sailing:** Great Britain's only Grade 1 match racing event, the Hoya Royal Lymington Cup, got underway in the western Solent yesterday with a high-class field, including ten skippers in the top 20 in the world rankings. Leading the charge for Britain was Chris Law, ranked No 6 in the world, who started strongly with three wins out of four races in ideal sailing conditions.

☐ **Rugby League:** Alex Murphy, 58, stood down last night as the director of football at Warrington Wolves, but he is to remain at Wilderspool in a new commercial and promotional role. His move follows the appointment last month of Darryl Van de Velde as coach after John Dorahy parted company with the club.

☐ **Boxing:** Lennox Lewis's World Boxing Council heavyweight title defence against Henry Akinwande will be staged at Lake Tahoe, Nevada, on July 12. The deal with Don King, Akinwande's promoter, and HBO, the American cable television company backing Lewis, was signed on Monday night.

THE LEADING 100 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM CRICKET GAME

Pos	Team (Player's name)	Pts
1	*Jam Sandwich X I (R Rae)*	1444
2	G E D Xi (GE Davis)	1341
3	Three Lobs (P Johnson)	1332
4	*Two Bowlers Short (R Rae)*	1317
5	Alleyne's Army (J Coulter)	1310
6	Five Lobs (P Johnson)	1303
7	Savanna Hope (A Hull)	1299
8	S F C Red (M Grover)	1296
9	Frankies Follies (M Cockcroft)	1290
=10	Doodyteds (J Royston)	1286
=10	The Yardley Ye-Ha's (K Loxton)	1286
12	Happy Hookers (GK Brooks)	1285
13	Sam's The Man 3 (G Sampson)	1284
=14	Flashing Blades (B Rendell)	1277
=14	Roshnes Raiders (PM Handler)	1277
16	Trail Blazers (MA Richardson)	1276
17	Team 1 (D Ashley)	1275
18	Brown Town D (K Brown)	1273
19	Four Lobs (P Johnson)	1272
20	Gone Batty (P Daniels)	1271
21	Dawns Dynamos (Miss D Shepherd)	1267
22	Runwicks (J Davenport)	1263
23	Capricorn Seven (P Stewart)	1260
24	Kalb's Corkers 1 (N Kalb)	1254
25	*Slightly Biased (M Trovell)*	1253
26	Bum Bridge Strays (JS Hutchinson)	1250
27	Portus (W Clarke)	1249
28	Eight Lobs (P Johnson)	1241
29	Raithathas X I (N Raithatha)	1240
30	Beads Up North (P Job)	1237
=31	——	1236
=31	Going For Gold No 9 (S Chamberlain)	1236
33	Two Lobs (P Johnson)	1234
34	——	1233
35	Johns Seconds (J Hobbs)	1232
36	Ace All Rounders (A Eade)	1231
37	Huge Hicksters (J Hall)	1230
=38	Seven Lobs (P Johnson)	1229
=38	Ole X I (M Scott)	1229
40	Nine Ten Eleven (A Jones)	1228
41	14 Lobs (P Johnson)	1227
42	Roberts - Team 1 (M Roberts)	1223
43	Brittas Empire (M Kelly)	1219
44	Webbers Post (EG Evans)	1215
=45	The Heavy Rollers (HJ West)	1214
=45	Sam's Select X I (S Pralley)	1214
=47	Ten Lobs (P Johnson)	1212
=47	Nine Lobs (P Johnson)	1212
=47	Six Lobs (P Johnson)	1212
=47	The Mini's (C Mundie)	1212
51	Prime Cuts (G Ashton)	1211
52	The Spinners Two (R Layton)	1208
53	Sankersey Formbk G (G Crutchly)	1207
54	Roy's Rebels (RL Stockwell)	1205
55	The Ants (Mrs M Marshall)	1204
56	The Boon Time Bats (HP Leigh)	1203
57	Holboakes (M Ward)	1200
=58	Just Not Cricket (GL Philpott)	1199
=58	Bravehearts (M Pettmen)	1199
60	Athers For P M (A Chisnell)	1198
61	Jans Jewels (D Cossens)	1195
=62	Summer Blues (K Russell)	1193
=62	Ian's Imperials ——	1193
64	Good Outside Bets (HJ West)	1190
=65	Dave's Dependables (D Tattoo)	1189
=65	(J Perks)	1189
=67	Aero Westminster (G Taylor)	1187
=67	Chippys Challenge (A Lewis)	1187
69	——	1185
=70	Willow Wizards (J Whiskin)	1184
=70	I Don't Believe It (M Barnett)	1184
72	Jaxout (J Miller)	1182
73	Garfield (G Peters)	1179
74	Trundlers (RJ Wilson)	1178
75	Smobourne Park (P Knowles)	1177
=76	Blodwenians (J Brown)	1176
=76	——	1176
=78	Headingleyshire (S Watson)	1175
=78	Everton 2 C C (S Murphy)	1175
=80	Les Fleurs Du Mal (S Thornton)	1173
=80	Caspian 1st X I (D Chandler)	1173
82	Chester Racing (LC Longuet)	1171
83	Eight Ian Bothams (P Johnson)	1170
84	Watsons Wonders (GW Watson)	1168
85	The One Day Wonders (C Povey)	1167
=86	Sudbrook Park (C Wyatt)	1166
=86	Teddy 2 (B Bars)	1166
=88	The Hustler (J Huckerby)	1164
=88	*Glentell X I (J Hanlon)*	1164
=90	Revved Up (B Stockton)	1163
=90	Ambassador's X I (HA Kidston)	1163
=90	*Ambassador's X I (HA Kidston)*	1163
=90	Tee Systems (RJ Parker)	1163
94	Thirskcrowe (P Bryant)	1162
95	*Nine Ian Bothams (P Johnson)*	1160
=96	Glasgow Ghoulies (B Cairns)	1158
=96	——	1158
98	Scamps Eleven (PD Templeman)	1157
=99	Also Rans (M Jordan)	1155
=99	The Schmoo (S Little)	1155

THE TIMES
ITC
INTERACTIVE TEAM CRICKET

INTERACTIVE TEAM CRICKET SCOREBOARD

The scores in brackets are the points scored in the last week; the other scores are the cumulative points scored since the start of the season. The figures include all matches completed by May 11. Overseas players are shown in **bold type.** *Rising Stars in italic.*

Batsmen (001-146)

Category A

Player (No)	Runs	Wkts	C/St	Total
C J Adams (001)	14 (14)	0 (0)	2 (2)	54 (54)
G F Archer (002)	26 (26)	0 (0)	0 (0)	26 (26)
M A Atherton (003)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
C W J Athey (004)	91 (91)	0 (0)	0 (0)	96 (96)
R J Bailey (005)	15 (15)	0 (0)	1 (1)	35 (35)
K J Barnett (006)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
D J Bicknell (007)	4 (4)	0 (0)	0 (0)	4 (4)
G S Blewett (008)	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**
D C Boon (009)	**95 (95)**	**0 (0)**	**2 (2)**	**140 (140)**
P D Bowler (010)	15 (15)	0 (0)	1 (1)	35 (35)
A D Brown (011)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
M A Butcher (012)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	-20 (-20)
P A Cottey (013)	63 (63)	0 (0)	0 (0)	68 (68)
J P Crawley (014)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
K M Curran (015)	91 (91)	0 (0)	0 (0)	96 (96)
M T G Elliott (016)	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**
N H Fairbrother (017)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
J E R Gallian (018)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
M W Gatting (019)	57 (57)	0 (0)	2 (2)	97 (97)
G A Gooch (020)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
M L Hayden (021)	**23 (23)**	**0 (0)**	**2 (2)**	**43 (43)**
D L Hemp (022)	5 (5)	0 (0)	2 (2)	45 (45)
G A Hick (023)	17 (17)	0 (0)	4 (4)	97 (97)
A J Hollioake (024)	22 (22)	0 (0)	0 (0)	22 (22)
N Hussain (025)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
S P James (026)	170 (170)	0 (0)	1 (1)	205 (205)
D M Jones (027)	**43 (43)**	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**	**43 (43)**
J H Kallis (028)	**41 (41)**	**4 (4)**	**2 (2)**	**161 (161)**
N V Knight (029)	12 (12)	0 (0)	1 (1)	32 (32)
J S Laney (030)	*28 (28)*	*0 (0)*	*1 (1)*	*48 (48)*
M N Lathwell (031)	5 (5)	0 (0)	1 (1)	25 (25)
G D Lloyd (032)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
M B Love (033)	28 (28)	0 (0)	1 (1)	48 (48)
M P Maynard (034)	24 (24)	0 (0)	1 (1)	44 (44)
A McGrath (035)	*14 (14)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*14 (14)*
R R Montgomerie (036)	33 (33)	0 (0)	1 (1)	33 (33)
T M Moody (037)	**10 (10)**	**0 (0)**	**1 (1)**	**30 (30)**
H Morris (038)	183 (183)	0 (0)	2 (2)	233 (233)
M D Moxon (039)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
T L Penney (040)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
M R Ramprakash (041)	202 (202)	0 (0)	1 (1)	237 (237)
R T Robinson (042)	130 (130)	0 (0)	2 (2)	175 (175)
P V Simmons (043)	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**
M J Slater (044)	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**
B F Smith (045)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	-20 (-20)
R A Smith (046)	88 (88)	0 (0)	0 (0)	93 (93)
A J Stewart (047)	12 (12)	0 (0)	0 (0)	12 (12)
M A Taylor (048)	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**
G P Thorpe (049)	83 (83)	0 (0)	1 (1)	108 (108)
M P Vaughan (050)	62 (62)	1 (1)	0 (0)	82 (82)
T R Ward (051)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
M E Waugh (052)	***0 (0)***	***0 (0)***	***0 (0)***	***0 (0)***
S R Waugh (053)	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**
A P Wells (054)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
V J Wells (055)	*6 (6)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*-34 (-34)*
W P C Weston (056)	22 (22)	0 (0)	0 (0)	22 (22)
J J Whitaker (057)	4 (4)	0 (0)	0 (0)	4 (4)

Category B

Player (No)	Runs	Wkts	C/St	Total
D A Blenkiron (058)	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*
D Byas (059)	91 (91)	0 (0)	1 (1)	116 (116)
M E Cassar (060)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
G R Cowdrey (061)	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*
R J Cunliffe (062)	49 (49)	0 (0)	0 (0)	49 (49)
T S Curtis (063)	4 (4)	0 (0)	0 (0)	4 (4)
A Dale (064)	72 (72)	1 (1)	0 (0)	92 (92)
J A Daley (065)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
R I Dawson (066)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
M P Dowman (067)	*55 (55)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*55 (55)*
A W Evans (068)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
A Flintoff (069)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
A Fordham (070)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
D P Fulton (071)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
A P Grayson (072)	38 (38)	1 (1)	0 (0)	58 (58)
K Greenfield (073)	24 (24)	0 (0)	1 (1)	24 (24)
A Habib (074)	53 (53)	0 (0)	2 (2)	93 (93)
T H C Hancock (075)	11 (11)	1 (1)	3 (3)	91 (91)
R J Harden (076)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
J C Harrison (077)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
A N Hayhurst (078)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
G R Haynes (079)	57 (57)	3 (3)	0 (0)	117 (117)
D R Hewson (080)	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*
A J Hibbert (081)	*17 (17)*	*0 (0)*	*3 (3)*	*77 (77)*
T P Hodgson (082)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
P C L Holloway (083)	3 (3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (3)
W J House (084)	*6 (6)*	*0 (0)*	*2 (2)*	*46 (46)*
S Hutton (085)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
P Johnson (086)	118 (118)	0 (0)	1 (1)	143 (143)
M Keech (087)	*46 (46)*	*0 (0)*	*1 (1)*	*66 (66)*
W S Kendall (088)	67 (67)	0 (0)	2 (2)	107 (107)
G J Kennis (089)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
R A Kettleborough (090)	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*
G A Khan (091)	62 (62)	0 (0)	0 (0)	67 (67)
W G Khan (092)	43 (43)	0 (0)	1 (1)	63 (63)
D A Leatherdale (093)	8 (8)	1 (1)	0 (0)	28 (28)
N J Lenham (094)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
J J B Lewis (095)	30 (30)	0 (0)	2 (2)	70 (70)
N J Llong (096)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
M A Lynch (097)	160 (160)	0 (0)	0 (0)	170 (170)
G I Macmillan (098)	27 (27)	0 (0)	1 (1)	47 (47)
D L Maddy (099)	*70 (70)*	*1 (1)*	*1 (1)*	*110 (110)*
M R May (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
P C McKeown (101)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
A A Metcalfe (102)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
S P Moffat (103)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1)	20 (20)
A J Moles (104)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
J E Morris (105)	29 (29)	0 (0)	0 (0)	29 (29)
K Newell (106)	30 (30)	1 (1)	0 (0)	50 (50)
D P Ostler (107)	51 (51)	0 (0)	2 (2)	96 (96)
J E Owen (108)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
K A Parsons (109)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
S D Peters (110)	102 (102)	0 (0)	1 (1)	132 (132)
P R Pollard (111)	33 (33)	0 (0)	1 (1)	53 (53)
J C Pooley (112)	34 (34)	0 (0)	0 (0)	34 (34)
M J Powell (113)	20 (20)	0 (0)	2 (2)	60 (60)
P J Prichard (114)	72 (72)	0 (0)	1 (1)	97 (97)
T A Radford (115)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
R K Rao (116)	20 (20)	1 (1)	0 (0)	20 (20)
J D Ratcliffe (117)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
D J Roberts (118)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
D D J Robinson (119)	59 (59)	0 (0)	0 (0)	64 (64)
A S Rollins (120)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1)	0 (0)
M A Roseberry (121)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
D J Sales (122)	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*
O A Shah (123)	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*
N Shahid (124)	32 (32)	0 (0)	0 (0)	22 (22)
A Singh (125)	150 (150)	0 (0)	1 (1)	180 (180)
E T Smith (126)	81 (81)	0 (0)	0 (0)	86 (86)
N J Speak (127)	125 (125)	0 (0)	0 (0)	130 (130)
K R Spiring (128)	75 (75)	0 (0)	2 (2)	120 (120)
J P Stephenson (129)	27 (27)	6 (6)	0 (0)	147 (147)
I J Sutcliffe (130)	9 (9)	0 (0)	0 (0)	9 (9)
A J Swann (131)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
N R Taylor (132)	30 (30)	0 (0)	0 (0)	30 (30)
S P Titchard (133)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
N J Trainor (134)	38 (38)	0 (0)	0 (0)	38 (38)
M E Trescothick (135)	*4 (4)*	*0 (0)*	*1 (1)*	*24 (24)*
T A Tweats (136)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
M J Walker (137)	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*
M A Wagh (138)	*4 (4)*	*0 (0)*	*2 (2)*	*24 (24)*
C D Walsh (139)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
T C Walton (140)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
P E Wellings (141)	13 (13)	0 (0)	1 (1)	33 (33)
R M S Weston (142)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
P R Whitaker (143)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
G W White (144)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
M G N Windows (145)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
A J Wright (146)	48 (48)	0 (0)	0 (0)	48 (48)

All-rounders (147-185)

Player (No)	Runs	Wkts	C/St	Total
M W Alleyne (147)	98 (98)	2 (2)	1 (1)	163 (163)
I D Austin (148)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
M G Bevan (149)	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**
D R Brown (150)	*0 (0)*	*6 (6)*	*1 (1)*	*120 (120)*
G P Butcher (151)	6 (6)	3 (3)	0 (0)	46 (46)
D J Capel (152)	21 (21)	0 (0)	1 (1)	41 (41)
P D Collingwood (153)	*25 (25)*	*0 (0)*	*1 (1)*	*45 (45)*
D G Cork (154)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
R D B Croft (155)	86 (86)	4 (4)	0 (0)	171 (171)
P A J DeFreitas (156)	*0 (0)*	*1 (1)*	*0 (0)*	*20 (20)*
V C Drakes (157)	**1 (1)**	**0 (0)**	**2 (2)**	**21 (21)**
K P Dutch (158)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
M A Ealham (159)	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*
S C Ecclestone (160)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
K P Evans (161)	0 (0)	3 (3)	0 (0)	40 (40)
M V Fleming (162)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
J P Hewitt (163)	0 (0)	9 (9)	0 (0)	160 (160)
K J Innes (164)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
R C Irani (165)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
K D James (166)	0 (0)	1 (1)	0 (0)	20 (20)
B P Julian (167)	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**
S R Lampitt (168)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
D R Law (169)	81 (81)	5 (5)	0 (0)	196 (196)
S G Law (170)	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**
C C Lewis (171)	6 (6)	0 (0)	1 (1)	26 (26)
A C Morris (172)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
A L Penberthy (173)	56 (56)	0 (0)	0 (0)	56 (56)
G M Roberts (174)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
N M K Smith (175)	55 (55)	0 (0)	0 (0)	60 (60)
J N Snape (176)	7 (7)	1 (1)	1 (1)	47 (47)
V S Solanki (177)	*31 (31)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*31 (31)*
P A Strang (178)	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**
C M Tolley (179)	91 (91)	4 (4)	1 (1)	196 (196)
Wasim Akram (180)	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**
M Watkinson (181)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
P N Weekes (182)	*11 (11)*	*1 (1)*	*3 (3)*	*91 (91)*
C M Wells (183)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
C White (184)	25 (25)	0 (0)	2 (2)	65 (65)
S Young (185)	***79 (79)***	***3 (3)***	***1 (1)***	***184 (184)***

Wicketkeepers (186-216)

Player (No)	Runs	Wkts	C/St	Total
A N Aymes (186)	18 (18)	0 (0)	1 (1)	38 (38)
J N Batty (187)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
R J Blakey (188)	9 (9)	0 (0)	4/1 (4/1)	129 (129)
K R Brown (189)	144 (144)	0 (0)	3 (3)	214 (214)
M Burns (190)	82 (82)	0 (0)	0 (0)	87 (87)
C A Chapman (191)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
I Dawood (192)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
T Frost (193)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2/1 (2/1)	80 (80)
S P Griffiths (194)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
I A Healy (195)	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**
W K Hegg (196)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
B J Hyam (197)	19 (19)	0 (0)	3 (3)	79 (79)
D A Kenway (198)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
K M Krikken (199)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1)	20 (20)
D G C Ligertwood (200)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
S A Marsh (201)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
C P Metson (202)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
P Moores (203)	26 (26)	0 (0)	1 (1)	46 (46)
P A Nixon (204)	9 (9)	0 (0)	2 (2)	49 (49)
W M Noon (205)	24 (24)	0 (0)	3 (3)	84 (84)
K J Piper (206)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
S J Rhodes (207)	39 (39)	0 (0)	4 (4)	99 (99)
D Ripley (208)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	-20 (-20)
R J Rollins (209)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
R C Russell (210)	67 (67)	0 (0)	5 (5)	172 (172)
A D Shaw (211)	8 (8)	0 (0)	2/1 (2/1)	68 (68)
M P Speight (212)	68 (68)	0 (0)	2 (2)	108 (108)
R J Turner (213)	10 (10)	0 (0)	2 (2)	50 (50)
R J Warren (214)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
P Whitticase (215)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
R C J Williams (216)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)

Bowlers (280-347)

Category A

Player (No)	Runs	Wkts	C/St	Total
J A Afford (217)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
S J W Andrew (218)	0 (0)	1 (1)	0 (0)	20 (20)
M C J Ball (219)	25 (25)	1 (1)	1 (1)	65 (65)
R T Bates (220)	0 (0)	2 (2)	1 (1)	40 (40)
J E Benjamin (221)	1 (1)	1 (1)	0 (0)	21 (21)
M M Betts (222)	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*
M P Bicknell (223)	74 (74)	2 (2)	0 (0)	119 (119)
J N B Bovill (224)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
M T Brimson (225)	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*1 (1)*	*0 (0)*
S J E Brown (226)	30 (30)	4 (4)	1 (1)	110 (110)
A R Caddick (227)	16 (16)	8 (8)	1 (1)	206 (206)
G Chapple (228)	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*
C A Connor (229)	23 (23)	3 (3)	0 (0)	83 (83)
A P Cowan (230)	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*
D M Cox (231)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
R P Davis (232)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
A A Donald (233)	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**
A R C Fraser (234)	35 (35)	4 (4)	0 (0)	115 (115)
A F Giles (235)	*89 (89)*	*5 (5)*	*0 (0)*	*174 (174)*
J N Gillespie (236)	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**
D Gough (237)	28 (28)	6 (6)	1 (1)	178 (178)
A J Harris (238)	*0 (0)*	*1 (1)*	*1 (1)*	*40 (40)*
P J Hartley (239)	23 (23)	2 (2)	1 (1)	83 (83)
D W Headley (240)	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*
R K Illingworth (241)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
M C Ilott (242)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
P W Jarvis (243)	26 (26)	2 (2)	1 (1)	86 (86)
R L Johnson (244)	18 (18)	3 (3)	1 (1)	98 (98)
G Keedy (245)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
R J Kirtley (246)	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*
J D Lewry (247)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
M J McCague (248)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
G D McGrath (249)	***0 (0)***	***0 (0)***	***0 (0)***	***0 (0)***
D E Malcolm (250)	0 (0)	4 (4)	0 (0)	80 (80)
P J Martin (251)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
R J Maru (252)	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*1 (1)*	*20 (20)*
D J Millns (253)	1 (1)	3 (3)	1 (1)	81 (81)
Mohammad Akram (254)	**20 (20)**	**5 (5)**	**0 (0)**	**130 (130)**
A D Mullally (255)	7 (7)	6 (6)	1 (1)	147 (147)
T A Munton (256)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Mushtaq Ahmed (257)	**8 (8)**	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**	**8 (8)**
P J Newport (258)	11 (11)	10 (10)	0 (0)	221 (221)
G J Parsons (259)	1 (1)	2 (2)	0 (0)	41 (41)
M M Patel (260)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
R M Pearson (261)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
A R K Pierson (262)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
P R Reiffel (263)	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**	**0 (0)**
G D Rose (264)	109 (109)	4 (4)	0 (0)	199 (199)
I D K Salisbury (265)	1 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1)
A Sheriyar (266)	13 (13)	3 (3)	0 (0)	73 (73)
K J Shine (267)	17 (17)	3 (3)	0 (0)	77 (77)
C E W Silverwood (268)	11 (11)	3 (3)	0 (0)	71 (71)
A M Smith (269)	3 (3)	10 (10)	0 (0)	233 (233)
R D Stemp (270)	1 (1)	5 (5)	0 (0)	101 (101)
P M Such (271)	0 (0)	4 (4)	0 (0)	80 (80)
J P Taylor (272)	*7 (7)*	*3 (3)*	*0 (0)*	*67 (67)*
P C R Tufnell (273)	12 (12)	2 (2)	1 (1)	72 (72)
S D Udal (274)	72 (72)	1 (1)	0 (0)	97 (97)
S K Warne (275)	***0 (0)***	***0 (0)***	***0 (0)***	***0 (0)***
Waqar Younis (276)	**12 (12)**	**1 (1)**	**1 (1)**	**52 (52)**
S L Watkin (277)	18 (18)	1 (1)	0 (0)	38 (38)
N F Williams (278)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
J Wood (279)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)

Category B

Player (No)	Runs	Wkts	C/St	Total
U Afzaal (280)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
P Aldred (281)	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*
D A Altree (282)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
G J Batty (283)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
M A V Bell (284)	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*
J Boiling (285)	4 (4)	2 (2)	2 (2)	64 (64)
M N Bowen (286)	11 (11)	4 (4)	0 (0)	91 (91)
J E Brinkley (287)	*7 (7)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*7 (7)*
J F Brown (288)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
R J Chapman (289)	3 (3)	1 (1)	0 (0)	23 (23)
V P Clarke (290)	*10 (10)*	*1 (1)*	*0 (0)*	*30 (30)*
D A Cosker (291)	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*
D M Cousins (292)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
A P Davies (293)	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*
K J Dean (294)	0 (0)	3 (3)	0 (0)	60 (60)
R R Dibden (295)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
M Dimond (296)	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*
S W K Ellis (297)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
J E Emburey (298)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
R A Fay (299)	*0 (0)*	*2 (2)*	*0 (0)*	*40 (40)*
D Follett (300)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
M J Foster (301)	12 (12)	2 (2)	0 (0)	52 (52)
P J Franks (302)	*0 (0)*	*1 (1)*	*0 (0)*	*20 (20)*
R J Green (303)	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*
G M Hamilton (304)	11 (11)	0 (0)	0 (0)	11 (11)
S Herzberg (305)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
J E Hindson (306)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
B C Hollioake (307)	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*
J G Hughes (308)	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*
P M Hutchison (309)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
A P Igglesden (310)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
J I D Kerr (311)	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*1 (1)*	*0 (0)*
N Killeen (312)	10 (10)	1 (1)	1 (1)	50 (50)
J Lewis (313)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
S Lugsden (314)	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*
R S C Martin-Jenkins (315)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
A D Mascarenhas (316)	22 (22)	1 (1)	0 (0)	42 (42)
T J Mason (317)	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*
S M Milburn (318)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
R W Nowell (319)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
J Ormond (320)	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*
O T Parkin (321)	0 (0)	1 (1)	0 (0)	20 (20)
M W Patterson (322)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
B J Phillips (323)	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*
N C Phillips (324)	3 (3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (3)
R A Pick (325)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
N W Preston (326)	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*
M Rawnsley (327)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
S J Renshaw (328)	21 (21)	7 (7)	0 (0)	161 (161)
M A Robinson (329)	*9 (9)*	*2 (2)*	*0 (0)*	*29 (29)*
M J Saggers (330)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
J P Searle (331)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
D J Shadford (332)	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*
K P Sheeraz (333)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
G C Small (334)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
E J Stanford (335)	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*
S D Thomas (336)	2 (2)	1 (1)	0 (0)	22 (22)
J B Thompson (337)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
M J Thursfield (338)	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*
H R J Trump (339)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
A J Tudor (340)	17 (17)	0 (0)	0 (0)	17 (17)
M J Vandrau (341)	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*	*0 (0)*
A P van Troost (342)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
A Walker (343)	0 (0)	8 (8)	0 (0)	150 (150)
G Welch (344)	0 (0)	7 (7)	0 (0)	120 (120)
A G Wharf (345)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
T N Wren (346)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
G Yates (347)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)

Remember that you must select two batsmen from Category A and three from Category B, and that you must select two bowlers from each category.

☐ One point is awarded for each run, 20 points for each wicket. Wickets include catches and stumpings by wicketkeepers, but not catches by fielders.

☐ *Source ECB/PA Cricket Record*

Rae of sunshine from Ramprakash

MARK RAMPRAKASH appears to have started this season determined to regain his place in the England team. Having scored a century for The Rest against England A at Edgbaston in April he gave another eye-catching performance in scoring 145 for Middlesex against Sussex at Lord's in the county championship last week.

Ramprakash has been a source of frustration during his Test career. His talent is not in doubt, but he has yet to bridge the gap between county and Test cricket.

The England selectors may still be deliberating about whether or not to give Ramprakash another chance against Australia this summer, but R. Rae, of Luton, can have no regrets about selecting him.

Rae's team, Jam Sandwich XI, has won the first weekly prize in *The Times* Interactive Team Cricket game. While Ramprakash has scored most heavily for Jam Sandwich, with 237 points, Gloucestershire players also figure prominently.

The veteran Monte Lynch has been in good form and has accrued 170 points, but has been helped by Gloucestershire colleagues Jack Russell, the discarded England wicketkeeper (172 points), Shaun Young, the Australian all-rounder (164 points) and Tim Hancock (91 points).

Another to have proved worth his place in Jam Sandwich XI is Darren Gough, the Yorkshire and England fast bowler, who underlined his early-season form with figures of five for 56 against Glamorgan at Headingley.

Other points scorers for Mr Rae were John Stephenson, the Hampshire captain, who contributed 147 points, and Graham Thorpe, the Surrey and England batsman, with 108 points.

This week's prize is three signed prints of Michael Atherton, Dominic Cork and Allan Lamb and a first edition of the PCA Year Book '97, signed by members of the Professional Cricketer's Association.

AXA EQUITY & LAW

PCA

ECB

WINNING TEAM

Batsmen
G P Thorpe (Surrey)
M R Ramprakash (Middlesex)
T H C Hancock (Gloucestershire)
M A Lynch (Gloucestershire)
J P Stephenson (Hampshire)

All-rounder
S Young (Gloucestershire)

Wicketkeeper
R C Russell (Gloucestershire)

Bowlers
D Gough (Yorkshire)
A D Mullally (Leicestershire)
B C Hollioake (Surrey)
V P Clarke (Derbyshire)

EACH team, depending on when they register, will be allocated a number of transfer allowances. If you register in May your team will be allocated ten transfers; from June you will be allocated eight transfers for your team, six in July, four in August and two in September.

You may use as many or as few as you wish but they must replace like for like i.e one bowler for another bowler. All transfers must be made before a first-class match. Transfer periods will be set weekly and any transfers made in one transfer period will become effective for the matches which begin within the next transfer period.

The transfer line will open on WEDNESDAY MAY 21 and will remain open for the season. Transfers must be made by midnight on a Monday in order to be effective for any first-class matches beginning after that date. Transfers may only be made by telephone by calling

0891 884 626 0990 100 348 (outside UK)

YOU may check your team score and position in ITC by calling

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RACING: EPSOM BETTING UNDER SPELL OF CECIL-TRAINED FILLY AFTER IMPRESSIVE YORK VICTORY

Reams Of Verse inspires Oaks dreams

By Julian Muscat

REAMS OF VERSE summoned the brilliance of her juvenile career to post a magnificent victory in the Tattersalls Musidora Stakes at York yesterday. The filly now exerts a stranglehold on the Oaks market, for which the Tote, taken with the 11-length margin, quotes her at 5-4 on.

Like Sleepytime, her stablemate who improved beyond recognition for her seasonal debut, Reams Of Verse was a different individual from the one who had failed to figure in the 1,000 Guineas nine days earlier. She looked physically short of her best on that occasion and the impression was confirmed here as she ruthlessly put her nine opponents to the sword.

The outcome was inevitable from the moment she collared the leaders halfway down the straight. There were doubts about her stamina beyond a mile, but Reams Of Verse relished the combination of this extended ten furlongs and an easy surface, sprinting away from Vagabond Chanteuse and Etoile with complete authority.

The Oaks examination will require Reams Of Verse — a half-sister to the Derby third, Elmaamul, whose best performances were over ten furlongs — to tackle 12 furlongs, almost certainly on faster ground. She may not be as effective in those circumstances, a fact acknowledged by Ladbrokes in their post-race 7-4 quote. She also came up against a substandard field here, although it would be churlish to belabour these details in the light of her crushing superiority.

Nevertheless, Reams Of Verse's success stirred memories of All At Sea, who won this race five years ago. All At Sea started a hot favourite for the Oaks but was outgalloped on soft ground by the stamina-laden User Friendly.

The equation appears finely balanced, although Henry Cecil, who trains Reams Of Verse, was in no mood to entertain the doubters. "I don't think there is a flaw," he said. "She was impressive today. She showed a good turn of foot and she settles so well I am sure the Oaks trip won't bother her."

Another classic card, albeit of less obvious worth, was played by Barry Hills after he saddled The Fly to secure an authoritative victory in the Shepherd Trophy Handicap. Rarely does a Derby colt emerge from the handicap ranks, but The Fly is clearly a cut above that class. "I have always thought of him as an Irish Derby horse but we will seriously consider Epsom now," Hills said after the grey swept from last to first in the 13-runner field.

Whatever The Fly achieves, his victory here guarantees his photograph a place on Michael Hills's mantlepiece. Having been marooned on the 999-*winner mark for ten days*, the jockey finally reached four figures in the silks he donned when gaining his first classic winner aboard Nicer in Ireland four years ago.

"I was hoping to reach the landmark on Further Flight at Chester last week," Hills said. "Further Flight has done so much for my career but at least The Fly is related to him. Not many people ride one thousand winners so I am a proud man."

Results, page 45

Luca Cumani was fined £700 and jockey Royston Ffrench banned for four days after being adjudged by the stewards to have breached the rules governing schooling horses in public with Zaralaska at York yesterday. The gelding, who contested the Yorkshire Life Magazine Handicap after a lengthy absence, was disqualified from racing for 30 days.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Reams Of Verse and Kieren Fallon prove themselves the No 1 combination in the Musidora Stakes at York yesterday

No fears for Apprehension in Dante

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

YORK

CHANNEL 4

2.05: Papering, placed twice in group one company last autumn, including here in the Yorkshire Oaks, should take this. Luca Cumani confirmed yesterday she is fit enough to do herself justice. Charlotte *Corday, who enjoys the ad*vantage of race fitness, is her only serious rival, having shown improved form on her seasonal debut at Ascot when just beaten by Nwaamis.

2.35: Lynda Ramsden's two runaway sprint winners at Chester reappear here before the handicapper gets to grips with them for their easy victories. Although the ground and track are very different from the Roodeye it will be a surprise if they are not involved in the finish. Surprise Mission completed a quick treble six days ago, having previously beaten Stuffed and Twice As Sharp at Thirsk, but the way **Bishops Court** won in a canter had to be seen to be believed. The winning margin of two lengths could have been ten and with Jimmy Fortune, the stable jockey, opting for the fast improving three-year-old, he looks worth following.

3.10: This is the most competitive Dante field for years and none can be ruled out in what should be an informative Derby trial. Medaaly beat Poteen to win the Racing Post Trophy last year but was on the sidelines for much of the winter with a chipped knee bone. Desert Story, the Craven Stakes winner, was beaten *twice last year by Benny The* Dip, who should be better for his seasonal reappearance behind Voyagers Quest. That form was boosted by the victory of the third, Silver Patriarch, in the Lingfield Derby Trial.

Yorkshire, backed for the Derby yesterday, won his only start last year by seven lengths in a fast time and Paul Cole has been pleased with the way the son of Generous, the 1991 Derby winner, has been working. However, once-raced **Apprehension**, who bettered the juvenile course record when making a winning debut at Haydock last autumn, interests me. The In The Wings colt is bred to be even more effective over this trip and has been working well.

3.40: Any rain would make Winter Romance a good bet. *He is best with cut in the* ground as he showed when winning at Haydock last May, albeit off a 10lb lower mark. Concer Un, a course and distance winner, is fairly treated but his wide draw is a disadvantage. Michael Stoute won this race three years ago with Soviet Line and **Insatiable** is interesting despite being 4lb out of the handicap. He would have won the Britannia Handicap at Royal Ascot last year but for a slipped saddle.

Richard Evans

[illegible]

THUNDERER

6.20 Supreme Soviet. 6.50 Slotamatique. 7.20 Breydon. 7.50 Acajou III. 8.20 Ruber. 8.50 Fox Sparrow.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (CHASE COURSE); SOFT (HURDLES) SIS

6.20 CAMERON MOTORS MAIDEN HURDLE
(£2,747: 2m 4f 110yd) (10)

1	00-6	CALLING THE TUNE 19 B Mactaggart 6-11-5	D Bentley
2	1000	FRISKY THYNE 21 M Hammond 8-11-5	R Garritty
3	0-	GOLD BITS 459 G Richards 6-11-5	R Dunwoody
4	-053	HAND OF STRAW 14 Miss Z Green 5-11-5	K Johnson
5	0	HITMAAN 16F Mrs A Swinbank 5-11-5	J Supple
6	U243	LORD OF THE LOCH 156 (BF) L Lungo 6-11-5	R Supple
7	686	NORDISK LEGEND 40F Mrs D Thomson 5-11-5	T Reed
8	0F	RAMBLING RAJAH 27 Mrs S Bradburne 5-11-5	Mr M Bradburne (7)
9	4284	SUPREME SOVIET 54 A Williams 7-11-5	B Storey
10	P	SPRINGLEA TOWER 27 R Nixon 4-10-13	P Niven

2-1 Supreme Soviet, 9-2 Lord of The Loch, 13-2 Gold Bits, Hand Of Straw, Hitmaan, 12-1 Frisky Thyne, 16-1 Nordisk Legend, Rambling Rajah, 25-1 others.

6.50 BREAK THROUGH BREAST CANCER NOVICES CHASE (£3,518: 3m) (9)

1	5051	MALTA MAN 19 (C,S) P Cheesbrough 7-11-7	A S Smith
2	1330	SLOTAMATIQUE 27 (B,F,S) G Richards 8-11-7	R Dunwoody
3	4102	CULLANE LAKE 11 (D,G) Miss M Milligan 7-11-2	R Supple
4	PPP-	ANOTHER MEADOW 351 J Dixon 9-11-1	B Storey
5	3	DRAGONS BAY 7 Mrs M Reveley 8-11-1	P Niven
6	32U3	FERN LEADER 9 (B,D,G,S) Mrs A Swinbank 7-11-1	Mr C Wilson
7	-FPU	ROYAL BANKER 28 (B) M Todhunter 7-11-1	P Carberry
8	8465	THE ENERGISER 148 B Lamb 11-11-1	J Burke
9	6F00	FESTIVAL FANCY 9 (B,G,S) B Mactaggart 10-10-10	G Lee

3-1 Malta Man, 7-2 Slotamatique, Fern Leader, 6-1 Cullane Lake, 8-1 Dragons Bay, 10-1 Royal Banker, 12-1 The Energiser, 16-1 others.

7.20 MACALLAN 10 Y O SINGLE MALT JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (£2,528: 2m 110yd) (4)

1		BREYDON 10F P Monteith 10-12	G Cahill
2	3	MR BRUNO 7 M Barnes 10-12	S Taylor (5)
3		SHEEMORE 16F M Hammond 10-12	R Garritty
4	20	ANIKA'S GEM 54 Mrs S Bradburne 10-7	M Foster

2-1 Breydon, 5-2 Sheemore, 3-1 Mr Bruno, 7-2 Anika's Gem.

7.50 FAMOUS GROUSE HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,436: 2m 4f 110yd) (6)

1	1112	DISCO DES MOTTES 5 (D,BF,G,S) G Richards 6-12-0	P Carberry
2	3413	ACAJOU III 9 (CD,BF,G,S) G Richards 9-11-0	C McCormack (7)
3	1231	WEAVER GEORGE 12 (F,G,S) W Storey 7-10-12	R McGrath (5)
4	2221	NICHOLAS PLANT 7 (D,F,S) J Goldie 8-10-5(5ex)	G Cahill
5	3FF1	WISE ADVICE 214 (BF) M Hammond 7-10-1	R Garritty
6	31P1	TOUGH TEST 11 (C,D,F,G,S) Mrs J Goodfellow 7-10-0	B Storey

15-8 Disco Des Mottes, 7-2 Acajou III, 5-1 Nicholas Plant, 6-1 Weaver George, Wise Advice, 8-1 Tough Test.

8.20 BUNNAHABHAIN 12 Y O SINGLE MALT SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,775: 3m 110yd) (11)

1	61F0	PRECIPICE RUN 19 (C,G,S) [illegible] 12-11-10	G Cahill
2	-P43	KIRSTENBOSCH 58 (BF,F,G) L Lungo 10-11-7	W Dowling (7)
3	3054	MONKEY WENCH 11 (F) Mrs J Goodfellow 6-11-7	B Storey
4	4120	RUBER 64 (C,D,BF,F,G,S) R Thomson 10-11-7	D Parker
5	1P03	PLAYFUL JULIET 7 (B,D,F,G,S) J Hawes 9-11-3	R McGrath (5)
6	0031	SKANE RIVER 12 (G) G Richards 6-10-13	R Dunwoody
7	-001	WHITEGATESPRINCESS 12 (V,F) B Ellison 6-10-8	C McCormack (7)
8	5000	BUSY BOY 21 D Lamb 10-10-3	J Burke
9	0030	MARDOOD 12 (G,S) S Clark 12-10-1	Miss R Clark (7)
10	U00P	DON'T TELL JUDY 19 Miss M Milligan 9-10-0	S Taylor (5)
11	500P	MEADOWLECK 4 W Young 8-10-0	I Jardine (7)

5-2 Skane River, 6-1 Kirstenbosch, Ruber, Whitegatesprincess, 7-1 Playful Juliet, 8-1 Precipice Run, 10-1 Monkey Wench, 16-1 others.

8.50 HIGHLAND PARK 12 Y O MALT CONDITIONALS HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,640: 2m 110yd) (7)

1	U130	PARIAH 21 (D,S) M Todhunter 8-11-13	C McCormack (5)
2	-200	MERRY MERMAID 68 (CD,S) P Monteith 7-11-12	S Melrose
3	-P55	HIGH LOW 18F (D,F,S) M Hammond 9-11-11	A Ede (7)
4	P343	RACHAEL'S OWEN 21 (CD,F,G) J Goldie 7-11-10	R McGrath
5	0064	FOX SPARROW 7 (B,D,S) N Tinkler 7-11-10	E Husband
6	6203	SKIDDAW SAMBA 11 (F) Mrs M Reveley 8-11-2	G Lee
7	000-	FRENCH PROJECT 10F (D,F) Mrs S Bradburne 5-10-6	G F Ryan

7-2 Rachael's Owen, Fox Sparrow, Skiddaw Samba, 9-2 Pariah, 11-2 Merry Mermaid, 16-1 High Low, French Project.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley, 22 winners from 56 runners, 39.3%; L Lungo, 9 from 29, 31.0%; M Hammond, 22 from 92, 23.9%; P Monteith, 19 from 81, 22.7%; J Goldie, 8 from 39, 20.5%; G Richards, 21 from 105, 20.0%.

JOCKEYS: G Lee, 3 winners from 9 rides, 33.3%; P Niven, 26 from 89, 29.2%; P Carberry, 6 from 26, 23.1%; R Garritty, 9 from 46, 19.6%; R Dunwoody, 7 from 39, 17.9%; G Cahill, 7 from 40, 17.5%.

Blinkered first time

HEREFORD: 2.25 Just For A Reason. LINGFIELD PARK: 4.20 Noble Investment. PERTH 6.50 Fern Leader, Slotamatique. YORK: 3.40 Musick House.

HUNTINGDON

THUNDERER

6.05 Spitfire Bridge. 6.35 Ardent Love. 7.05 Drummond Warrior. 7.35 Prizefighter. 8.05 Mill O'The Rags. 8.35 Nordance Prince.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS

6.05 LADIES EVENING SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,891: 2m 5f 110yd) (11 runners)

1	P3P2	BRINDLEY HOUSE 118 (G) R Curtis 10-12-0	D Morris
2	0000	BETTER BYTHE GLASS 7 (F,G,S) N Twiston-Davies 8-11-11	C Llewellyn
3	6113	NAUTICAL JEWEL 11 (F) K Wingrove 5-11-2	Mr A Wintle (7)
4	0515	SPITFIRE BRIDGE 60 (G) G McCourt 5-10-4	N Williamson
5	200P	WEATHER ALERT 19 (V,G) K Morgan 6-10-3	R Johnson
6	4356	SCRIPT 15 (F,S) J Jenkins 6-10-2	K Gaule
7	0205	GI MOSS 9 (B) P Harris 10-10-1	S McNeill
8	P-U6	CLERIC ON BROADWAY 15 J Pearce 9-10-0	J Culloty
9	6034	ECU DE FRANCE 9 P Ritchens 7-10-0	N Willmington (7)
10	P-05	FRET 11 (G,S) J Wainwright 7-10-0	B Fenton
11	PU-0	BEN CONNAN 201 J Wayte 7-10-0	Mr R Wakley (7)

3-1 Nautical Jewel, 5-1 Better Bythe Glass, Spitfire Bridge, 8-1 Weather Alert, Script, 10-1 Brindley House, Gi Moss, Ecu De France, 16-1 others.

6.35 HEALTH SPA WATER NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,408: 3m 2f) (10)

1	1U02	NORTHERN STAR 12 (C,F,G) J Pickering 6-11-10	Miss J Wormall (7)
2	P215	SAMMORELLO 18 (D,F,S) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-2	C Llewellyn
3	40P6	STORMY SESSION 18 N Twiston-Davies 7-11-0	T Jenks
4	3521	ARDENT LOVE 9 (G) D Nicholson 8-10-9	R Johnson
5	0-01	FORBIDDEN WATERS 30 (G) Miss V Williams 6-10-9	N Williamson
6	5455	KAREN'S TYPHOON 9 T McGovern 6-10-8	M A Fitzgerald
7	-504	ANNIE RUTH 9 Mrs J Pitman 6-10-1	R Garrard (7)
8	5P65	CROWN IVORY 14 (F) P Ritchens 9-10-1	S Fox
9	50RP	ARRANGE A GAME 9 (CD,F) Miss J Bower 10-10-0	R Wilkinson (5)
10	5-F6	EDEN STREAM 9 Miss L Shally 10-10-0	D Leahy

5-2 Ardent Love, 9-2 Forbidden Waters, 5-1 Northern Star, Sammorello, 10-1 Stormy Session, Crown Ivory, 12-1 Annie Ruth, 16-1 others.

7.05 DELOITTE & TOUCHE CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS NOVICES CHASE
(£2,887: 2m 110yd) (7)

1	524P	LOWAWATHA 83 (D,F) Mrs E Heath 9-11-7	D Gallagher
2	5P23	BALI TENDER 9 J Wharton 6-11-0	F Leahy (3)
3	-PPP	CUMBERLAND YOUTH 4 Miss C Caroe 6-11-0	I Lawrence
4	14-3	DRUMMOND WARRIOR 11 (F) T Thomson Jones 8-11-0	M A Fitzgerald
5	1P3U	GIMME 50 (V,D,BF,F,G) J O'Shea 7-11-0	Michael Brennan (3)
6	2-53	NADIAD 12 (B,D,F,G) D McCain 11-11-0	T Jenks
7	3432	TELMAR SYSTEMS 223 (F,G) J White 8-11-0	J R Kavanagh

2-1 Drummond Warrior, 4-1 Gimme, 5-1 Bali Tender, Nadiad, 6-1 Telmar Systems, 7-1 Lowawatha, 33-1 Cumberland Youth.

7.35 HARTLEY'S JAM QUANTUM LEAP HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,756: 2m 110yd) (4)

1	1336	PRIZEFIGHTER 39 (CD,F) J Eyre 6-12-0	D Gallagher
2	34U4	TIME WON'T WAIT 15 (D,F,G) R Phillips 8-11-10	N Williamson
3	-3P2	WALKING TALL 18 (B,D,F,G) T McGovern 6-11-2	R Johnson
4	0121	ANTIGUAN FLYER 23 (V,D,F,G) G Prodromou 8-10-4	Michael Brennan (3)

2-1 Time Won't Wait, 5-2 Prizefighter, 11-4 Walking Tall, 3-1 Antiguan Flyer.

8.05 Q103 FM NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,887: 2m 4f 110yd) (7)

1	1152	MILL O'THE RAGS 20 (CD,F,G) Mrs D Haine 8-12-0	J F Titley
2	15P2	CARDINAL RULE 19 (G,S) Miss V Williams 8-11-4	N Williamson
3	4606	GEORGE ASHFORD 102 (B,D,F,G) P Johnson 7-11-0	M Sharratt
4	1406	STAGE PLAYER 9 (F,G,S) Miss C Caroe 11-10-10	I Lawrence
5	F503	WOT NO GIN 8 A J Wilson 8-10-0	L Harvey
6	P454	COPPER CABLE 18 C Smith 10-10-0	M Ranger
7	-00P	MISTER GOODGUY 32 (D,F,S) R Curtis 8-10-0	D Morris

15-8 Mill O'The Rags, Cardinal Rule, 13-2 Wot No Gin, 8-1 Stage Player, Copper Cable, 14-1 George Ashford, 33-1 Mister Goodguy.

8.35 YELLING NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,355: 2m 110yd) (10)

1	5341	NORDANCE PRINCE 12 (F) Miss V Williams 6-11-6	N Williamson
2	5341	REAL MADRID 16 (CD,G) G Enright 6-11-6	R Johnson
3		DUFFERTOES 9F M Ryan 5-11-0	J Ryan
4	30	FRENCH COUNTY 11 J Jenkins 5-11-0	G Bradley
5	23-0	KAIFOON 178 P Ritchens 5-11-0	S Fox
6	3405	NASHAAT 103F (BF) K Burke 9-11-0	A Larnach
7	/023	OUR EDDIE 9 (B) K Wingrove 8-11-0	K Gaule
8	0	SAPPHIRE SON 8 P Clarke 5-11-0	B Fenton
9	333	UNDAWATERSCUBADIVA 15 M Bielby 5-11-0	M A Fitzgerald
10	0P	OSULLA 9 Miss L Shally 5-10-9	D Leahy

9-4 Nordance Prince, 11-2 Real Madrid, 13-2 Undawaterscubadiva, 7-1 Nashaat, Our Eddie, 8-1 Kaifoon, 12-1 Duffertoes, French County, 16-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

HUNTINGDON: Trainers: D Nicholson, 13 winners from 55 runners, 23.6%; T Thomson Jones, 4 from 17, 23.5%; J Pearce, 7 from 33, 21.2%; Mrs J Pitman, 8 from 42, 19.0%; Mrs D Haine, 7 from 43, 16.3%; J White, 9 from 59, 15.3%. Jockeys: J Culloty, 3 winners from 13 rides, 23.1%; N Williamson, 14 from 61, 23.0%; J Titley, 5 from 27, 18.5%; J Ryan, 7 from 42, 16.7%; D Gallagher, 7 from 49, 14.3%.

HEREFORD: Trainers: Miss V Williams, 4 winners from 8 runners, 50.0%; N Henderson, 15 from 33, 45.5%; M Pipe, 35 from 111, 31.5%; N Twiston-Davies, 30 from 98, 30.6%; D Nicholson, 10 from 35, 28.6%. Jockeys: C Llewellyn, 21 winners from 76 rides, 27.6%; M A Fitzgerald, 11 from 63, 17.5%; N Williamson, 11 from 63, 17.5%; J Railton, 6 from 43, 14.0%; G Tormey, 3 from 22, 13.6%.

HEREFORD

THUNDERER

1.55 Song Of The Sword. 2.25 Fleet Cadet. 3.00 Bally Clover. 3.30 Dovetto. 4.00 Special Beat. 4.30 Trifast Lad. 5.00 Castle Owen.

Carl Evans: 4.30 Miss Millbrook.

GOING: GOOD SIS

1.55 WEOBLEY JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,262: 2m 1f) (6 runners)

1	2016	MELT THE CLOUDS 11 (B,D,F) M Pipe 11-5	R Johnson
2	31F0	NOBLE COLOURS 11 (CD,BF,G) S Griffiths 11-5	Mr A Wintle (7)
3	1	SONG OF THE SWORD 7 (G) J Old 11-5	M A Fitzgerald
4		MORNING SIR 35F A Streeter 10-12	T Eley
5	P	RED RUSTY 127F P Hedger 10-12	M Clinton (7)
6	PF6	STARTINGO 35 R Brown 10-12	Mr A Charles-Jones

8-13 Song Of The Sword, 5-2 Melt The Clouds, 8-1 Noble Colours, 20-1 Morning Sir, 25-1 Red Rusty, 33-1 Startingo

2.25 HOLMER SELLING HURDLE
(£1,842: 2m 3f 110yd) (7)

1	1416	FLEET CADET 7 (V,D,BF,F,S) M Pipe 6-11-12	G Supple (5)
2	00F	HABERDASHER 30 Miss P Whittle 6-11-0	W Marston
3	4462	JUST FOR A REASON 19 (B,G) R Juckes 5-11-0	J Railton
4	06P4	LOOK IN THE MIRROR 7 N Twiston-Davies 6-11-0	C Llewellyn
5	0-5	MASTER SHOWMAN 9 D Wintle 6-11-0	Mr A Wintle (7)
6	0P56	JAIME'S JOY 9 (V) G Roe 7-10-9	M Smith (7)
7	PUP4	RAKAPOSHI IMP 9 C Jones 7-10-9	L Suthern (7)

13-8 Fleet Cadet, 3-1 Just For A Reason, Look In The Mirror, 7-1 Master Showman, 16-1 Jaime's Joy, Rakaposhi Imp, 25-1 Haberdasher

3.00 CANON PYON HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,803: 3m 1f 110yd) (6)

1	1312	BALLY CLOVER 18 (CD,BF,G,S) Miss V Williams 10-12-0	N Williamson
2	2246	DISTANT MEMORY 12 (B,F,G) P Hobbs 8-11-0	G Tormey
3	P263	DIAMOND FORT 12 (D,F,G) J McConnochie 12-10-12	M A Fitzgerald
4	3333	PAPER STAR 14 (D,F) M Muggeridge 10-10-9	B Powell
5	F0P4	WOODLANDS GENHIRE 8 (B,D,F) P Pritchard 12-10-0	C Llewellyn
6	0P45	COASTING 9 (G,S) H Haynes 11-10-0	Mr S Durack (7)

7-4 Bally Clover, 2-1 Diamond Fort, 9-2 Distant Memory, Paper Star, 20-1 Woodlands Genhire, 25-1 Coasting.

3.30 ST RICHARDS SCHOOL CONDITIONALS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,332: 2m 1f) (10)

1	5P12	REVERSE THRUST 25 (D,F) P Hedger 6-11-10	M Clinton (8)
2	-300	DOVETTO 5 A E Price 8-11-8	D J Kavanagh
3	0030	FRENO 43 K Bailey 6-11-1	W Walsh (8)
4	-306	FLOW BACK 15 G Enright 5-11-1	L Aspell
5	0000	ROC AGE 7 G Davies 6-10-12	Michael Brennan
6	6004	TEE TEE TOO 19 A Carroll 5-10-10	R Studholme (5)
7	0053	TATHMIN 84 (V) M R Bosley 4-10-10	X Aizpuru (3)
8	P5P5	ROYRACE 44 W M Brisbourne 5-10-5	R Massey
9	P/00	SOBER ISLAND 106 Mrs D Thomas 8-10-5	Guy Lewis
10	-0U0	VITAL WONDER 11 J Parfitt 9-10-0	O Burrows (3)

11-4 Reverse Thrust, 5-1 Dovetto, Tathmin, 6-1 Freno, Tee Tee Too, 10-1 Royrace, 14-1 Flow Back, Roc Age, 20-1 others.

4.00 TILLINGTON NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,332: 2m 3f 110yd) (8)

1	101	SPECIAL BEAT 25 (G,S) N Henderson 5-11-7	Mr C Vigors (5)
2	2213	AMI BLEU 35 (D,S) P Mooney 5-11-6	J F Titley
3	605	BROOK BEE 11 N Gaselee 5-11-0	W Marston
4	PP-	HAYDOWN 256F M Bosley 5-11-0	Mr P Phillips (7)
5	2105	LORD FOLEY 88 (G) J O'Shea 5-11-0	Michael Brennan (3)
6	2-8	RUSHAWAY 11 Miss C Johnsey 6-11-0	D Gallagher
7	02PP	SARDVILLE LAD 11 Mrs D Thomas 5-11-0	Guy Lewis (3)
8	6-5P	FAIRIES FAREWELL 155 O Sherwood 7-10-9	J A McCarthy

Evens Special Beat, 7-2 Ami Bleu, 7-1 Fairies Farewell, 8-1 Lord Foley, 10-1 Rushaway, 12-1 Brook Bee, 33-1 others.

4.30 BROCKHAMPTON HUNTERS CHASE
(Amateurs: £1,194: 3m 1f 110yd) (11)

1	2113	MY NOMINEE 14 (B,BF,F,G,S) D Nicholls 9-12-7	R Burton (7)
2	2313	RUSTY BRIDGE 7 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs S Johnson 10-12-7	D McPhail (7)
3	1161	TRIFAST LAD 9 (F,G,S) M J Roberts 12-12-7	P Hacking (3)
4	2-21	VITAL SONG 14 (F,G) M Dare 10-12-7	G Matthews (7)
5	P121	MISS MILLBROOK 14 (CD,F) D Goldsworthy 9-12-2	E Williams (7)
6	/FPU	AL BILLAL 11P R Williams 9-12-0	Miss P Cooper (7)
7	1122	JACK SOUND 9P (F,G,S) Mrs M Evans 11-12-0	D S Jones (7)
8	533P	J B LAD 14 (G,S) H Tuck 11-12-0	Miss P Gundry (7)
9	31-P	KILLELAN LAD 9 (S) Miss K di Marte 15-12-0	Miss K Di Marte (7)
10	4-F1	LAYSTON D'OR 58P (G) C Hooley 8-12-0	A Charles-Jones (7)
11	2343	NO PANIC 3P (G) C Johnson 13-12-0	G Lewis (7)

3-1 Trifast Lad, 4-1 Miss Millbrook, 5-1 My Nominee, 6-1 Rusty Bridge, Vital Song, 10-1 Layston D'Or, 12-1 Jack Sound, 16-1 others

5.00 MARDEN STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,030: 2m 1f) (11)

1	0	BERMERA 4 J Mackie 5-11-4	T Eley
2		CASTLE OWEN D Nicholson 5-11-4	Mr R Thornton (3)
3	00	FRANKIE MUCK 112 N Twiston-Davies 5-11-4	Mr J Goldstein (7)
4	00-	REGAL BLUFF 417 J McConnochie 5-11-4	S Wynne
5	00	BE IN SPACE 53 Miss P Whittle 5-10-13	Mr O McPhail (7)
6	05	CINNAMON CLUB 74 N Gaselee 5-10-13	A Thornton
7		DEEP C DIVA J Old 5-10-13	J Osborne
8	55	HURRICANE JANE 110 M J Roberts 5-10-13	J Railton
9	8	MISS MOUSE 18 P Mooney 5-10-13	R Massey (3)
10	0	BOSSA NOVA 11 L Cottrell 4-10-8	O Burrows (5)
11		PRIDE OF PENNKER P Murphy 4-10-8	L Aspell (3)

2-1 Castle Owen, 7-2 Deep C Diva, 8-1 Cinnamon Club, 8-1 Hurricane Jane, 10-1 Miss Mouse, Pride Of Pennker, 12-1 Frankie Muck, 16-1 others.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

2.15 Hever Golf Mover. 2.45 One Off The Rail. 3.20 Top Shelf. 3.50 Castles Burning. 4.20 Noble Investment. 4.50 Mister Aspecto.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

2.15 SANTANDER HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £2,277: 6f) (14 runners)

1	(13)	2465	TEAR WHITE 15 (F) T Mills 9-7	A Whelan (3)	91
2	(5)	60-0	SIGNS AND WONDERS 27 C Cyzer 9-6	D O'Shea	80
3	(2)	2205	CASTLE ASHBY JACK 44 (B) P Howling 9-5	Paul Eddery	91
4	(12)	-612	HEVER GOLF MOVER 8 (D,F) T Naughton 9-2	S Sanders	97
5	(9)	6426	CHASETOWN FLYER 33 N Berry 9-1	C Rutter	97
6	(14)	500-	BAPSFORD 184 G L Moore 9-1	G Duffield	90
7	(4)	0-00	AYBEEGIRL 15 (V,F) Mrs J Cecil 8-13	Martin Dwyer (3)	94
8	(10)	205-	JINGOIST 193 (B,D,G) J L Harris 8-10	B Doyle	90
9	(3)	00-3	WING OF A PRAYER 34 W Jarvis 8-9	D Urbina	[illegible]
10	(8)	00-0	AVANTI BLUE 16 K McAuliffe 8-9	W J O'Connor	83
11	(7)	5044	LUCY OF ARABIA 16 (B) J Sheehan 8-8	S Drowne	85
12	(1)	0-63	DAYRELLA 16 W Muir 8-6	M Roberts	93
13	(6)	-030	NAMPARA BAY 12 G Bravery 8-5	D Harrison	90
14	(11)	0-05	MUARA BAY 34 G Lewis 7-12	J Quinn	98

3-1 Hever Golf Mover, 6-1 Wing Of A Prayer, 7-1 Chasetown Flyer, 8-1 Aybeegirl, 10-1 Tear White, Signs And Wonders, 12-1 others.

2.45 VIGO CLAIMING STAKES (£2,277: 2m) (6)

1	(3)	25/3	BATABANOO 16 (F,G) Mrs M Reveley 8-9-7	W J O'Connor	89
2	(5)	0-05	CAROL'S DREAM 16 (C,G) J Hills 5-9-7	M Henry (3)	83
3	(6)	6232	ONE OFF THE RAIL 13 (C,F,G) G L Moore 7-9-1	S Whitworth	[illegible]
4	(1)	0031	PETOSKIN 23 (F,G,S) J Pearce 5-9-1	M Wigham	87
5	(4)	262/	RED WHIRLWIND 703J R Simpson 7-8-13	M Fenton	–
6	(2)	000-	ARCH ANGEL 44J (G) G Charles-Jones 4-8-9	C Cox (7)	75

7-4 One Off The Rail, 2-1 Petoskin, 5-1 Batabanoo, 6-1 Carol's Dream, 14-1 Red Whirlwind, 33-1 Arch Angel

3.20 BILBAO LIMITED STAKES (£2,888: 1m 2f) (7)

1	(3)	2030	BAGSHOT 2 (CD,BF,F,G,S) G L Moore 6-9-9	S Whitworth	90
2	(6)	0-00	ANCHOR VENTURE 8 S Woods 4-9-5	W Ryan	73
3	(7)	0-04	RISING DOUGH 8 (D,F) G L Moore 5-9-5	S Sanders	91
4	(2)	5200	ENCHANTING EVE 16 (C,G) C Allen 3-8-5	Martin Dwyer (3)	97
5	(4)	0-00	SMART BOY 18 (F) P Cole 3-8-4	C Rutter	91
6	(5)	-103	TOP SHELF 9 (C,G) C Brittain 3-8-3	B Doyle	[illegible]
7	(1)	0-43	SCARLET CRESCENT 15 (G) P Walwyn 3-8-1	Paul Eddery	98

3-1 Top Shelf, 7-2 Bagshot, 9-2 Rising Dough, Scarlet Crescent, 8-1 Anchor Venture, Enchanting Eve, Smart Boy.

3.50 LIMA HANDICAP
(£5,226: 1m) (8)

1	(7)	2-06	STOPPES BROW 13 (V,C,F,G,S) G L Moore 5-10-0	M Batchelor (7)	94
2	(1)	0060	DUKE VALENTINO 11 (CD,G) R Hollinshead 5-9-4	D Griffiths (3)	98
3	(2)	0001	PENGAMON 5 (CD,F,G) H Collingridge 5-9-3 (5ex)	J Quinn	98
4	(4)	4123	ERTLON 23 (CD,F,G) C Brittain 7-8-13	B Doyle	[illegible]
5	(8)	-100	EFFERVESCENCE 8 (C,G) R Hannon 3-8-13	R Hughes	91
6	(3)	-140	CASTLES BURNING 15 (CD,G) C Cyzer 3-8-2	D Biggs	95
7	(6)	3200	TUIGAMALA 18 (CD,F,G) R Ingram 6-7-10	N Adams	98
8	(5)	20/4	RESIST THE FORCE 5 C Cyzer 7-7-10	R Ffrench (5)	93

3-1 Pengamon, 4-1 Ertlon, 6-1 Stoppes Brow, Effervescence, Resist The Force, 7-1 Castles Burning, 8-1 Duke Valentino, 12-1 Tuigamala

4.20 SAN SEBASTIAN MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £3,948: 7f) (13)

1	(5)	0-	GOODBYE GATEMEN 205 B Pearce 9-0	Martin Dwyer (3)	–
2	(6)		JUGGLER Lord Huntingdon 9-0	M Roberts	–
3	(8)	30-0	KRISTOPHER 33 J Hills 9-0	N Adams	73
4	(7)		NITE BITES C Cyzer 9-0	D Biggs	–
5	(12)	0-05	NOBLE INVESTMENT 4 (B) J Eustace 9-0	J Tate	94
6	(3)	0-0	QUARTERSTAFF 21 C Wall 9-0	G Duffield	78
7	(11)	2-2	SKY COMMANDER 9 M Stoute 9-0	D Harrison	[illegible]
8	(10)	50-	SODA POP 244 C Brittain 9-0	B Doyle	70
9	(4)	5	TEZAAB 11 B Hanbury 9-0	J Stack	–
10	(13)	00-	YANAVANAVANO 379 G Lewis 9-0	J Dennis (7)	–
11	(1)	50-	SHOWCASE 224 J Hills 8-9	M Henry (3)	85
12	(2)		SIFWA D O'Brien 8-9	G Bardwell	–
13	(9)	0-6	ZEST 12 M Bell 8-9	M Fenton	81

7-4 Sky Commander, 8-1 Juggler, Tezaab, Zest, 10-1 Kristopher, 12-1 Nite Bites, Noble Investment, Soda Pop, Showcase, 14-1 others.

4.50 SANTIAGO HANDICAP
(£3,720: 1m 4f) (13)

1	(1)	1402	GENERAL HAVEN 9 (CD,G) T Naughton 4-10-0	G Duffield	91
2	(13)	206-	CANTON VENTURE 166J (D,F,G) S Woods 5-9-13	W Ryan	92
3	(6)	20-0	NEWPORT KNIGHT 21 (B,D,F,G) R Akehurst 6-9-12	S Sanders	98
4	(7)	-040	BOWLED OVER 15 (D,G) C Cyzer 4-9-8	M Roberts	93
5	(12)	3000	MISTER ASPECTO 16 (B,CD,F,G) M Johnston 4-9-7	B Doyle	96
6	(2)	1100	IN THE MONEY 13 (CD,F,G) R Hollinshead 8-8-12	F Lynch (3)	99
7	(9)	020-	WILLIE RUSHTON 335 (G) G L Moore 4-8-11	S Whitworth	90
8	(5)	1302	CALENDULA 5 (D,G) D Morley 4-8-10	G Carter	[illegible]
9	(11)	-102	MARADI 9 (D,BF,G) M Bell 3-8-7	M Fenton	95
10	(4)	4403	ARZANI 18 (C,G) D Cosgrove 6-8-4	R Mullen (5)	98
11	(3)	2410	AWESOME POWER 40 (C,G) J Hills 11-8-3	A Clark	98
12	(10)	4535	HAWAJI 8 W Muir 4-7-10	R Ffrench (5)	92
13	(8)	5406	BLUE AND ROYAL 8 (B) V Soane 5-7-10	G Bardwell	92

7-2 Maradi, 5-1 Calendula, 13-2 Arzani, 7-1 General Haven, In The Money, 10-1 Newport Knight, 12-1 Bowled Over, Awesome Power, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: V Soane, 3 winners from 7 runners, 42.9%; G Lewis, 18 from 76, 23.7%; Lord Huntingdon, 42 from 195, 21.5%; M Bell, 8 from 39, 20.5%; M Johnston, 48 from 257, 18.7%; C Brittain, 25 from 136, 18.4%.

JOCKEYS: S Whitworth, 35 winners from 183 rides, 19.1%; W Ryan, 20 from 112, 17.9%; G Duffield, 23 from 149, 15.4%; M Wigham, 15 from 107, 14.0%; Paul Eddery, 13 from 98, 13.3%; D Harrison, 32 from 242, 13.2%.

YORK

THUNDERER

2.05 Papering
2.35 Kira
3.10 Crimson Tide
3.40 Winter Romance
4.10 Bodyguard
4.40 MIDYAN BLUE (nap)

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.10 BODYGUARD.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.05 Papering. 3.10 BENNY THE DIP (nap). 3.40 Hammerstein.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

2.05 GROSVENOR CASINOS MIDDLETON STAKES C4
(Listed: £11,095: 1m 2f 85yd) (5 runners)

101	(1)	12224-	PAPERING 214 (D,F) (Sheikh Mohammed) L Cumani 4-8-12	L Dettori	[illegible]
102	(2)	54416-	BALL GOWN 249 (D,F,G,S) (C Lines) D Thom 7-8-9	D Holland	92
103	(3)	3214-2	CHARLOTTE CORDAY 14 (G) (A Oppenheimer) G Wragg 4-8-9	M Hills	98
104	(4)	31432-	SPIRITO LIBRO 305 (D,F,G) (Camelot Racing) D Cosgrove 4-8-9	M Rimmer	80
105	(5)	203-04	TEMPTRESS 10 (D,F,S) (P Barrett) J L Harris 4-8-9	O Peslier	65

BETTING: 10-11 Papering, 2-1 Charlotte Corday, 13-2 Ball Gown, 8-1 Spirito Libro, 20-1 Temptress.

1996: BATHILDE 3-8-9 M J Kinane (6-1) M Stoute 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

PAPERING 1¾l 2nd of 9 to Key Change in the Yorkshire Oaks (1m 4f, good), Aug 96. BALL GOWN beat Henry Island 4l in handicap at Newmarket (1m 2f, good). CHARLOTTE CORDAY short-head 2nd of 5 to Nwaamis at Ascot (1m, good to firm). SPIRITO LIBRO neck 2nd of 17 to Wilcuma over course and distance (good), July 96. TEMPTRESS 1½l 4th of 13 to Valedictory in handicap at Newmarket (1m 4f, good).
Selection: PAPERING

2.35 GROSVENOR CASINO LEEDS SPRINT HANDICAP C4
(£15,270: 5f) (14 runners)

201	(14)	230-00	AMAZING BAY 11 (C,D,F) (Lady Halifax) I Balding 4-9-10	L Dettori	86
202	(10)	000-14	REPERTORY 15 (D,F,G) (M Saunders) M Saunders 4-9-8	R Perham	88
203	(7)	0-3111	SURPRISE MISSION 6 (D,F,G,S) Mrs J Ramsden 5-9-3 (6ex)	A Culhane	[illegible]
204	(8)	023-05	LAGO DI VARANO 10 (V,D,F,G,S) (The PBT Group) R Whitaker 5-9-1	D McKeown	91
205	(9)	-53121	KIRA 13 (D,F,G) (J Wilson) J Eyre 7-8-13	K Fallon	90
206	(12)	0211-6	STUFFED 25 (D,F,G) (Early Morning Breakfast) M W Easterby 5-8-13	T Quinn	89
207	(3)	030-06	SWYNFORD DREAM 6 (D,F,G) (Dunstar Holdings Ltd) J Bottomley 4-8-13	J Lowe	90
208	(2)	0-0361	PALACEGATE TOUCH 9 (B,D,F,G,S) (Laurel Ltd) J Berry 7-8-13 (6ex)	P Fessey (5)	91
209	(6)	0500-5	TWICE AS SHARP 25 (D,F,G) (Formula Twelve) P Harris 5-8-12	G Hind	90
210	(5)	100-21	GONE SAVAGE 19 (CD,F,G,S) (The Square Table) W Musson 9-8-11	R Cochrane	93
211	(13)	020-00	WHITE EMIR 11 (D,F,S) (The Three Bears Racing) B Meehan 4-8-9	O Peslier	90
212	(4)	31-331	BISHOPS COURT 7 (D,G,S) (D Brotherton) Mrs J Ramsden 3-8-9 (6ex)	J Fortune	97
213	(11)	51-256	ELLENS LAD 19 (D,BF,F,G) (Mrs C Harrington) R Hannon 3-8-5	Dane O'Neill	90
214	(1)	250510	CHEMCAST 25 (B,D,F,G,S) (Clayton Bigley Ptnrs Ltd) J Eyre 4-8-3	R Lappin	92

BETTING: 7-4 Bishops Court, 9-2 Surprise Mission, 8-1 Gone Savage, 10-1 Stuffed, Twice As Sharp, 14-1 Ellens Lad, Kira, 16-1 Amazing Bay, Lago Di Varano, Repertory, 20-1 White Emir, 25-1 others.

1996: FAIRY WIND 4-9-4 M J Kinane (14-1) N Callaghan 15 ran

FORM FOCUS

REPERTORY beat To The Roof short-head in handicap at Newbury (5f, good to firm). SURPRISE MISSION beat Ziggy's Dancer short-head in handicap at Thirsk (5f, good to firm) with TWICE AS SHARP (3lb better off) 3l 5th, STUFFED 1¼l 6th, SWYNFORD DREAM (14lb better off) 5¾l 15th. LAGO DI VARANO 8¼l 5th of 13 to Fond in handicap at Hamilton (6f, soft). KIRA beat Lady Sheriff 1½l in handicap at Redcar (5f, firm). STUFFED beat Shadow Jury 1l in 18-runner handicap at Newcastle (5f, good to firm), Oct 96. GONE SAVAGE beat Literary Society 1¼l in 17-runner handicap at Sandown (5f, good to firm). BISHOPS COURT beat Double-J 2l in handicap at Chester (6f, soft).
Selection: LAGO DI VARANO (nap)

3.10 GROSVENOR CASINOS DANTE STAKES C4
(Group II: 3-Y-O: £79,190: 1m 2f 85yd) (9 runners)

301	(5)	1-	APPREHENSION 249 (F) (Sheikh Mohammed) D Loder 8-11	K Darley	71
302	(4)	1113-2	BENNY THE DIP 18 (BF,G) (L Knight) J Gosden 8-11	O Peslier	96
303	(1)	21-3	CRIMSON TIDE 27 (BF,G) (C Wright) J Hills 8-11	R Hills	91
304	(7)	221-16	DESERT STORY 11 (F,S) (M al-Maktoum) M Stoute 8-11	M J Kinane	98
305	(2)	0-1	KINGFISHER MILL 29 (D,G) (H De Walden) Mrs J Cecil 8-11	Pat Eddery	81
306	(8)	21151-	MEDAALY 200 (F,G) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 8-11	L Dettori	[illegible]
307	(3)	3110-0	MONZA 27 (G) (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11	J Reid	86
308	(9)	51-1	MUSALSAL 53 (F,G) (M al-Maktoum) B Hills 8-11	M Hills	90
309	(6)	1-	YORKSHIRE 224 (S) (F Salman) P Cole 8-11	T Quinn	72

BETTING: 7-2 Benny The Dip, 4-1 Apprehension, 5-1 Desert Story, Medaaly, Yorkshire, 8-1 Kingfisher Mill, 10-1 Musalsal, 16-1 Crimson Tide, Monza.

1996: GLORY OF DANCER 8-11 O Peslier (3-1) P Kelleway 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

BENNY THE DIP beat DESERT STORY ¾l in the group II Royal Lodge Stakes at Ascot (1m, good) with MEDAALY about 2¾l 5th, Sep 96. CRIMSON TIDE beat Danetime 1l in conditions stakes at Newmarket (7f, good), Oct 96. DESERT STORY beat Grapeshot ¾l in the group III Craven Stakes at Newmarket (good to firm) on penultimate start. MEDAALY beat Poteen ½l in the Racing Post Trophy at Doncaster (1m, good), Oct 96. MUSALSAL beat Handsome Ridge short-head in conditions stakes at Doncaster (1m, good to firm). YORKSHIRE beat Nordic Crest 7l in maiden at Salisbury (1m, good to soft), Oct 96.
Selection: BENNY THE DIP

3.40 GROSVENOR CASINOS HAMBLETON HANDICAP C4
(Listed: £13,140: 7f 202yd) (14 runners)

401	(8)	1100-0	CENTRE STALLS 19 (D,F,G,S) (A Pye-Jeary) R Johnson Houghton 4-9-7	T Quinn	[illegible]
402	(12)	0-0104	RUSSIAN MUSIC 18 (B,F) (Seventh Heaven Ptnrs) Miss G Kelleway 4-9-2	K Fallon	97
403	(5)	545-23	HAMMERSTEIN 41 (D,F) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 4-9-2	L Dettori	94
404	(4)	01106-	MASTER BOOTS 216 (G,S) (C Brasher) D Loder 4-8-13	K Darley	90
405	(1)	-32055	CELESTIAL KEY 10 (B,D,F,G) (M Graff) M Johnston 7-8-13	J Weaver	93
406	(9)	02045-	HI NOD 200 (C,F,G) (B Nordan) M Camacho 7-8-11	L Charnock	93
407	(2)	3012-0	PRINCE BABAR 28 (D,G) (G Pritchard-Gordon) J Banks 6-8-11	Pat Eddery	98
408	(11)	0635-4	WINTER ROMANCE 14 (D,S) (M al-Maktoum) E Dunlop 4-8-11	O Peslier	94
409	(14)	100-50	CONCER UN 9 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Miss L Ward) S C Williams 5-8-7	M Hills	95
410	(13)	6400-0	RESOUNDER 14 (C,F,G) (Exors of H Allen) J Gosden 4-8-7	R Hills	91
411	(10)	100-46	PATSY GRIMES 44 (F,G,S) (J Grimes) J S Moore 7-8-7	Dane O'Neill	92
412	(6)	1000-3	MUSICK HOUSE 9 (B,S) (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 4-8-7	J Reid	91
413	(7)	51/32-	INSATIABLE 330 (BF,G) (Sir Evelyn De Rothschild) M Stoute 4-8-7	M J Kinane	90
414	(3)	-12020	NEW CENTURY 28 (D,F,G) (A Bloodstock Ltd) D Nicholls 5-8-7	J Carroll	85

Long handicap: Resounder 8-5, Patsy Grimes 8-5, Musick House 8-4, Insatiable 8-3, New Century 8-2.

BETTING: 11-2 Insatiable, 6-1 Hammerstein, Winter Romance, 7-1 Prince Babar, 10-1 Centre Stalls, Concer Un, Hi Nod, Master Boots, 12-1 Musick House, Russian Music, 14-1 Celestial Key, Resounder, 20-1 others

1996: FIRST ISLAND 4-9-7 R Cochrane (11-2) G Wragg 13 ran

FORM FOCUS

HAMMERSTEIN 8¾l 3rd of 8 to Kassbaan in listed race at Nad Al Sheba (1m, fast). MASTER BOOTS beat Fire Dome 3½l in 5-runner conditions stakes at Haydock (7f, good to soft). CELESTIAL KEY about 3¾l 4th of 8 to Ali-Royal in listed race at Newmarket (1m, good) with CENTRE STALLS (7lb worse off) 2¾l 7th, Nov 96. PRINCE BABAR beat RUSSIAN MUSIC (2lb worse off) ¾l in apprentice stakes at Ascot (1m, good), Oct 96. WINTER ROMANCE about 5¼l 5th of 10 to Tarawa in listed race at Newmarket (1m 1f, good), Oct 96. INSATIABLE head 2nd of 31 to North Song in Britannia Handicap at Royal Ascot (1m, good to firm).
Selection: PRINCE BABAR

4.10 GROSVENOR CASINO SHEFFIELD CONDITIONS STAKES
(2-Y-O: £6,831: 6f) (4 runners)

501	(3)	1	BODYGUARD 11 (G) (H H Prince Fahd Salman) P Cole 8-13	T Quinn	[illegible]
502	(4)	11	JACKERIN 8 (F,G) (J Young) B Rothwell 8-13	K Fallon	87
503	(1)	1	RUZEN 18 (G) (Five To Follow) B Palling 8-11	T Sprake	86
504	(2)	4122	OUT LIKE MAGIC 16 (F) (Mrs E Dawson) P Evans 8-8	J F Egan	88

BETTING: 4-9 Bodyguard, 13-2 Jackerin, Ruzen, 8-1 Out Like Magic.

1996: PROUD NATIVE 8-13 M J Kinane (5-1) A Jarvis 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

BODYGUARD beat Legs Be Frendly 5l in 8-runner maiden at Newmarket (5f, good). JACKERIN beat Dim Ots ½l in 7-runner auction novice at Doncaster (5f, good). RUZEN beat Quiz Master ¾l in 16-runner auction maiden at Leicester (5f, good). OUT LIKE MAGIC 1¾l 2nd of 9 to Classy Cleo in novice stakes at Pontefract (5f, good).
Selection: BODYGUARD

4.40 GROSVENOR CASINO MANCHESTER HANDICAP
(£7,830: 1m 5f 194yd) (16 runners)

601	(9)	1304-0	PURPLE SPLASH 18 (V,D,G,S) (C Walford) P Makin 7-10-0	Pat Eddery	90
602	(14)	10200-	ARCTIC FANCY 252 (D,G) (The Cool Customers) P Harris 4-9-3	M J Kinane	90
603	(6)	4221-0	TOTEM DANCER 28 (D,G) (Diamond Racing Ltd) J Eyre 4-9-1	K Fallon	90
604	(12)	155/	CAMPAIGN 26J (F) (Spectrum) M Hammond 6-8-12	J Fortune	–
605	(15)	400-42	PIKE CREEK 15 (BF,F) (R & E Hitchins) I Balding 4-8-12	L Dettori	98
606	(8)	2/00-4	EXECUTIVE DESIGN 9 (S) (L Fosler) Mrs M Reveley 5-8-10	K Darley	88
607	(5)	/50-12	TURNPOLE 18 (F,S) (W Williams) Mrs M Reveley 6-8-8	A Culhane	[illegible]
608	(11)	00-030	MIDYAN BLUE 23 (CD,BF,G) (K Palmer) J Eustace 7-8-6	R Cochrane	93
609	(16)	423-23	SIEGE PERILOUS 18 (D,BF,F,S) (S Demanuele) S C Williams 4-8-5	T Quinn	91
610	(13)	20-001	TURGENEV 9 (B,D,G,S) (Mrs B Tranter) R Bastiman 8-8-5 (4ex)	M Birch	92
611	(4)	160-02	OPAQUE 9 (D,G) (G Keary) W Storey 5-8-4	P Fessey (5)	97
612	(10)	112212	RAFFLES ROOSTER 8 (BF,G) (M Leatham) A Newcombe 5-8-3	Jo Hunnam (7)	98
613	(1)	1-2152	SUMMERHILL SPECIAL 10 (F,S) (Alba Racing Synd) D Barker 6-8-0	T Williams	96
614	(2)	40565-	SAMIM 216 (B,G) (R Redmile) S Gollings 4-7-11	F Norton	88
615	(3)	50-503	BELLARA 9 (D,F,G,S) (G Leigh) N Babbage 5-7-10	N Varley	85
616	(7)	0115-0	BATOUTOFTHEBLUE 9 (D,G) (Dr C Emmerson) W Haigh 4-7-10	L Charnock	94

BETTING: 6-1 Pike Creek, 13-2 Turnpole, 7-1 Midyan Blue, 8-1 Siege Perilous, Opaque, Summerhill Special, 10-1 Raffles Rooster, Turgenev, 12-1 Arctic Fancy, Totem Dancer, 14-1 others

1996: CELERIC 4-10-0 W Carson (3-1 fav) D Morley 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

PURPLE SPLASH beat Robingo 5l in handicap at Haydock (1m 6f, good to soft). TURNPOLE head 2nd of 9 to Here Comes Herbie in handicap at Ripon (2m, good) with SIEGE PERILOUS 10l 3rd. MIDYAN BLUE 6¾l 3rd of 9 to Sugar Mill in handicap at Haydock (1m 4f, soft).
SIEGE PERILOUS 1¼l 2nd of 10 to Inchcailloch in handicap at Kempton (2m, good). TURGENEV beat Welsh Mill 1¾l in 11-runner handicap at Haydock (1m 6f, soft) with BELLARA (4lb better off) 6l 3rd. RAFFLES ROOSTER best effort when neck 2nd of 11 to The Butterwick Kid in handicap at Chester (1m 4f 66yd, heavy).
Selection: SIEGE PERILOUS

RICHARD EVANS

**Nap: BISHOPS COURT
(2.35 York)**

**Next best: Pike Creek
(4.40 York)**

SPECIALISTS

YORK: Trainers: S bin Suroor, 7 winners from 14 runners, 50.0%; D Loder, 11 from 40, 27.5%; M Stoute, 23 from 114, 20.2%; J Gosden, 18 from 90, 20.0%; G Wragg, 6 from 33, 18.2%; P Chapple-Hyam, 8 from 47, 17.0%. Jockeys: T Sprake, 3 winners from 10 rides, 30.0%; L Dettori, 40 from 164, 24.4%; M J Kinane, 15 from 76, 19.7%; Pat Eddery, 32 from 181, 17.7%; J Reid, 20 from 141, 14.2%.

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مكنز من الاهل

CRICKET

Atherton's chance to recapture lost form

By Alan Lee, cricket correspondent

AS OPPONENTS around the world will testify, Michael Atherton is at his most dangerous in adversity. Today, then, may see his overdue return to form. He must bat on an Old Trafford pitch destined to start green, the first England team of the summer is about to be chosen and some malcontents are saying that he should not be in it.

It will come as a surprise to many that Atherton considers *he is on good terms with his* batting — even though the *England captain* concedes that an aggregate of 95 runs in *seven innings for Lancashire* this season is not a ringing *endorsement of his form.*

"I need one good innings," *he said yesterday.* This is precisely what Mark Taylor *was saying 24 hours earlier.* The difference is that the *Australia captain has been* misfiring, over a lengthy period, *in Test cricket,* while Atherton's lean sequence only *concerns county games.*

"I do feel in pretty good *nick,*" *Atherton said.* "There would be a problem if I didn't, with *the internationals so* close, but as it is I have no *doubt at all that I should be in* the one-day side.

"*County form at the start of* our season can often mean *very little. Most of the England* guys have struggled a bit *and, speaking for myself,* I don't feel I have properly got *into the season yet.* I've *only* played one first-class innings, *which is a regular problem* with our county programme *at this time of year.*"

Atherton is aware of the *lobby convinced he should* stand down from the Texaco Trophy games, and perhaps from the England one-day *side altogether,* but he does not agree. "I haven't played well in one-day cricket since the World Cup, but it's not so long ago that *I was our most* consistent batsman in this *form of the game. I know I can* still do the job."

Technically, selection is out of Atherton's hands and he will not be present when David Graveney, Graham Gooch and Mike Gatting gather in London on Saturday to debate the one-day party. He will, though, be in telephone contact and has been assured that he will retain some input.

There is no real doubt that Atherton will continue to open the batting in the Texaco games. No doubt, either, that the selectors would be reassured by a decent score from him today, when Nottinghamshire are the visitors. *Lancashire expect* to welcome back Mike Watkinson, the captain, *and Glen Chapple.*

Nick Knight would normally be an automatic choice, at least in limited-overs cricket, *as Atherton's opening partner* for England, but the finger he *broke so badly in New Zealand* has complicated the *thinking. He will be closely* watched at Edgbaston today, *when he is due to captain* Warwickshire in an intriguing *championship fixture against* Yorkshire.

Graeme Hick is another whose one-day selection was *once a formality.* After starting the season as badly as *Atherton — although he made* 40 against Lancashire on *Monday — Hick intends to* open the batting for Worces*tershire in the Parks today.* Whether the selectors will be *seduced by even a double*century against the students of *Oxford is another matter.*

Mark Ramprakash, also on *the fringes of an international* recall, is fit again after a *hamstring strain and plays for* Middlesex against Derby*shire, again without Dominic* Cork — one player who *certainly will not be named by* England on Sunday morning.

Surrey, the title favourites, will be up against David *Lawrence on the Oval pitch he* always enjoyed in his pomp, *while the match of the round* could be at Canterbury, where *Glamorgan are the visitors.* After two virtual washouts, the championship is in urgent need of a lift, rather like Atherton's batting figures.

GILL ALLEN

Mark Taylor, the Australia captain, stretches himself as the touring party begins its preparations for the defence of the Ashes at Lord's yesterday

Lord's retains all its charms bar one

MICHAEL HENDERSON

Line and Length

Even when *it is gripped* by the wet fingers of an early *English summer,* Lord's is still something else, *as the Australian cricketers* having nets there this week *cannot fail to* realise. *The* rebuilt Grandstand is not ready, *and there are two vast,* unsightly legs of stone at the Nursery *End that will eventu*ally support the new media centre, *but even in its incom*pleteness the ground is *majestic.*

Of course it is. Lord's is *unique. It has played a meaty* part in the social history of the *world's greatest capital city,* and continues to do so *because it constantly renews* itself. When, ten years ago, *Michael Hopkins designed* the Mound Stand elevation he *got a bad press. Who now,* looking at this village mar*quee in the heart of the city,* which floods the ground with *light, would deny that it looks* absolutely natural?

The ground *has absorbed* all sorts of changes down the *years, many of them in the* past two decades. If you look *at old pictures of Lord's it is* evident that, in every respect save one, the place has never looked better. Come June, when the second Test starts, *this small chunk of St John's* Wood will resemble a veritable Arcadia.

In every respect save one, I said, *and it is not difficult to* guess the one. Today, when *the Tavern outside the Grace* Gates reopens after another *change of hands, it is time to* honour the old one, the proper *one, underneath the stand* that still bears its name, and *ceased to exist in any proper* sense in 1986. That was when *the public concourse was* bricked in, and seats installed. *They remain there, unloved* and largely unused.

The Tavern was the "lung" of Lord's. It was where the *world went to argue, drink* and do daft things. It was *frequented by poets* and conmen; retired gents and *students on the sly; men from* the City and women of low *morals;* viscounts, tinkers and, even, the odd cricketer. It *was the most vivid place on* the ground.

In his marvellous book, The Best Loved Game, a wide-ranging impression of the 1978 season, Geoffrey *Moorhouse recalled how Tav*ern-side spectators at the Eton *v Harrow* match failed to recognise the famous cricketer among them: Keith Ross *Miller! Well, Miller will be* over again soon from Austra*lia and will no doubt admire* his portrait in the Long Room *and enjoy a drink in the MCC* committee room, but I imag*ine he would* rather nurse a pint of something disgusting in the Tavern. Nobody ever went there for the quality of *the ale.*

Until 1967, the Tavern was actually a pub you could enter *from the street* and *where, as* Ian Nairn wrote, for the price *of a pint you could enjoy a* view of the most famous *meadow in the kingdom. On* the other side of it, in summer, was *that wonderfully demo*cratic concourse. Part of the *fun was not knowing* who would be there. The cast *changed every day.*

It was where the distin*guished novelist,* V. S. Naipaul, eavesdropped on *West Indies supporters at the* 1963 Test, and got a very good *piece out of it; where* Richard Burton, joshed by actor *friends for lingering at the* cricket when he should have been preparing for that night's performance at the *Old Vic, replied "Oh, it's only* Iago", (the second longest role in *Shakespeare!*). *It was* where you found a comrade*ship in sport that cannot exist* any more.

There is a *lot of talk these* days about "the people", and now that Tony *Banks* is the Minister for Sport there *should* be no end of bogus populism. But the Tavern really was about people, not in *a grim proletarian way,* but in the way that people can *change a life by impinging* upon it, however briefly. It *was rowdy from time to time* but there was never any bad behaviour. *It was a jolly place.*

The seats crept in there for *one-day finals and, eventual*ly, MCC decided that the *demand for Test match tickets* was so great that it had to *accommodate its members* somewhere, and that some*where happened to be the* Tavern. Then came Hills*borough, and the Taylor Re*port, although it is difficult to *see how the new laws relate to* a place like the Tavern, where *spectators could never be at* risk, being so close to the field.

Come on, Roger Knight, you're the MCC secretary. Rip *out those seats and restore one* of the ground's great original *features. There is more to* Lord's than the "rights" of *MCC members (I speak as* one) and there is a glorious opportunity to bring back something that is badly missed.

Kent gain point and secure top billing in last eight

By Our Sports Staff

FEWER than five overs' play were possible at Bristol in the Benson and Hedges Cup match between Gloucestershire and Kent yesterday before more heavy rain *descended* on an already damp ground and the game *was abandoned.*

Curiously, the result *pleased both clubs. Kent took* the point that guaranteed that they *finished top of group C* and secured a home quarter-final, while *Gloucestershire's* point lifted them above Sussex. *On the day of the quarter*finals, May 27, they will have *the privilege of entertaining* the Australians in Bristol for a *three-day match.*

Gloucestershire were mak*ing impressive progress* before the rain. They carried *their overnight* score of 25 without loss to 45 in three *overs,* with Monte Lynch adding three more fours as Kent called on their medium pace pair, Ealham and Fleming. *Tony Wright* also glanced a boundary off Fleming, but was bowled *when he essayed* an off drive to an inswinger. Gloucestershire were 50 for one when the rain came.

The Scottish cricket authorities were left counting the cost *of the weather after rain* washed out the match against Nottinghamshire *without* a ball being bowled, despite *their efforts to change the* venue.

The game was due to take place at Titwood in Glasgow *and the Scottish Cricket Union* (SCU)spent around £3,000 making *the ground ready.* When it became obvious over *the weekend that the ground* was too wet, the game was *switched to* Grange Cricket Club, in Edinburgh, with a *further outlay of around* £1,500, but the rain followed.

"*It's rather annoying* because we are a pretty impe*cunious union,*" Alex Ritchie, the SCU general manager, said. "We probably *wouldn't* have made much money on *the gate, which didn't make it* worth insuring, but, you know, *people always drink* beer." The SCU has insured the one-day match against the Australians at Grange on July 12.

THE TIMES

DON'T GET LEFT ON THE PLATFORM.

See page 35 for details.

http://www.the-times.co.uk

CHANGING TIMES

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, bridge correspondent

This was another hand played by John Probst, who did the right thing on yesterday's hand. My main contact with him is in his role as a tournament director, telling me cheerfully that I have five minutes to finish three boards. He said he thought he made an "unlucky expert" play on this hand.

Dealer North **North-South game** **IMPs**

North:
♠ A J
♥ A K J 6 5
♦ A 9 6 2
♣ A K

West:
♠ 10 7 6 5 2
♥ 7
♦ 10 8 3
♣ Q 8 7 4

East:
♠ 9 8
♥ Q 9 4 3 2
♦ Q 5
♣ 9 5 3 2

South:
♠ K Q 4 3
♥ 10 8
♦ K J 7 4
♣ J 10 6

Contract: Six Diamonds by South. Lead: seven of hearts

With the ten of hearts being such a useful card. Six No-trumps is probably the best North-South contract. However, Six Diamonds looks sound enough. Probst won the heart lead in dummy and, showing he knows his safety plays, continued with a diamond to the king and a low diamond. When West followed low he put in the nine. Unfortunately East won the queen, and gave his partner a heart ruff.

What do you think of declarer's play? If avoiding two diamond losers was the only danger in the hand, then what Probst did was correct. He was unlucky that hearts were 5-1. But there is more in the hand than that. Say after king and another diamond West shows out. Now East has Q 10 of diamonds, and declarer is by no means home. Even if he had unblocked the clubs before playing diamonds, after taking a club ruff the blockage in spades would still be a problem. Perhaps better after this start would be to play for the hearts to come in after one ruff. But it still needs a favourable distribution.

I think the safety play is a delusion — best is just to play the ace of diamonds and a diamond to the jack if East follows low on the second round. Now even if the diamonds are 4-1 declarer is in control. This line loses two diamonds to West if he started with Q 10 x x, but note that if he had that holding he could have made it awkward on Probst's line of play by splitting on the second round. An un-safety play I think.

☐ Robert Sheehan *writes on* bridge Monday to Friday in *Sport and in the Weekend* section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
chess correspondent

England on top

After seven rounds of the European team championship in Pula, Croatia, England dominates with 19 points out of a possible 28. The England team leads by a clear two-point margin over Croatia, Russia, Armenia and Germany.

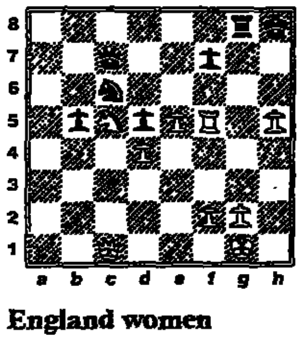
In the seventh round, England slaughtered Hungary 3-1. Here is Michael Adams's win in the match against Armenia from the sixth round.

White: Michael Adams
Black: Smbat Lputian
European team championship
Pula, May 1997

French Defence

1	e4	e6
2	d4	d5
3	e5	c5
4	c3	Nc6
5	Nf3	Nh6
6	Bd3	cxd4
7	cxd4	Nf5
8	Bxf5	exf5
9	Nc3	Be6
10	Ne2	h6
11	h4	Qa5+
12	Kf1	Be7
13	Kg1	Rc8
14	Nf4	g6
15	a3	Qb6
16	b4	a5
17	Rb1	axb4
18	axb4	Na7
19	b5	Rc4
20	Rh3	Rb4
21	Rxb4	Bxb4
22	Rg3	Kd7
23	Nxe6	Kxe6
24	Bd2	Qxb5
25	h5	Bxd2
26	Nxd2	g5
27	Rb3	Qc6
28	Qb1	b5
29	Ra3	Ra8
30	Qa1	Qb7
31	Nb3	Ke7
32	Nc5	Qc7
33	Ra6	Kf8
34	Rxh6	Rc8
35	Rf6	Kg8
36	Rxf5	Nc6
37	Rxg5+	Kh8
38	Nb3	Nd8
39	Nc5	Nc6
40	Rf5	Rg8
41	Qc1	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



England women

After a fine start the England women's team has fallen back in the race for medals following a crushing 2-0 defeat by Romania. Current scores are as follows: Georgia 11/14; Romania 9½; England, Russia and Greece 9.

Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in *The Times*, and is available now from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01376 321276 at £6.99 *plus postage and packing*).

☐ *Raymond* Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in *Sport and in the* Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ABANNITION
a. Absent-mindedness
b. Banishment
c. Perversity

ATRAMENT
a. Ink
b. The end gable
c. An overcoat

BUMBARD
a. A bomb
b. A bee
c. A cavalry sergeant

BASTO
a. Ace of clubs
b. A cudgel
c. Enough!

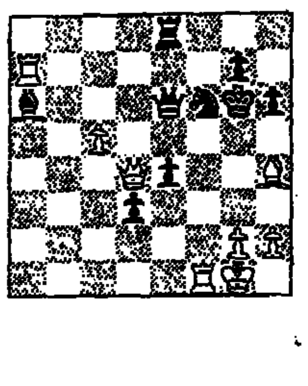
Answers on page 46

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Genius — Timman, Aegon Simultaneous 1997. This position is from a game played in a tournament contested between humans and computers. Computers are weak in strategic areas, but very strong in tactical situations. How did Genius demonstrate its tactical skill here?

Solution on page 46



CRICKET: MALCOLM HIT FOR SIX OFF PENULTIMATE BALL TO SEAL VICTORY FOR WARWICKSHIRE

Small stands tall to sink Derbyshire

By Richard Hobson

DERBY (Warwickshire won toss): Warwickshire (2pts) beat Derbyshire by one wicket

IT IS finishes like this that explain the appeal of one-day cricket. The Benson and Hedges Cup contest encompassed the good, the bad and, at times, the ugly and was decided to the surprise of everybody, including the heroic batsmen, when Gladstone Small drove the penultimate ball from Devon Malcolm for a winning six over long off.

After a fine start, Warwickshire had collapsed from 124 for one to 193 for nine and required 12 from the final over. When Small met Malcolm with the full swing of his bat, all parties appeared to lose sight of the ball in the sun. What felt like an age passed before Barrie Leadbeater, the umpire, raised his arms.

That single clean hit ensured that Warwickshire climbed above Derbyshire and Lancashire to finish in second place behind Yorkshire in the group, and thus enter the draw for the quarter-finals today.

Derbyshire failed to kick on from an opening stand of 114 between Chris Adams and Kim Barnett. Adams almost edged Donald on to his stumps and rashly chanced his fortune against the arm of Knight, but otherwise appeared untroubled and took to the Warwickshire attack with meaty relish.

A sweep against the spin of Giles raised his fifty and a straight six in the slow left armer's next over suggested further belligerence. Small, however, produced a delivery that skidded underneath another attempt to pull and his dismissal, for 61, prompted an alarming decline.

In the next over, Barnett perished attempting to force Giles through the offside and was followed when Jones yorked himself playing a grotesque shot "on the walk" against Small. Clarke was run out amid confusion with Khan and Khan himself found Piper both alert and adroit behind the stumps when he glanced Small finely.

Krikken and Defreitas opted for consolidation at a crucial stage of the innings and added just 24 in ten overs. DeFreitas chipped Neil Smith to mid-wicket and the total of 216 for eight appeared at least 30 runs short.

Where Adams had plundered anything remotely loose, Nick Knight opted for a studious response. He was missed by Krikken on 24 and required 106 balls to complete a sombre half-century. Nevertheless, this was no mean effort from a player in just his second innings of the season.

Until Clarke entered the attack as the sixth bowler, Warwickshire appeared to be progressing smoothly enough. Delivering leg breaks from a flat trajectory, he firstly accounted for Brown, ending a second-wicket stand of 96 with Knight, and induced panic in the remaining top order.

He beat a forcing shot from Hemp and then hit the leg *stump of Ostler, who had gone* too far across, and capped that by holding a return catch from Knight at the second attempt.

Harris rejoined the attack to prompt the dismissals of Penney and Welch, both caught hitting out, and then bowled Giles before Piper was run out after the umpire had *called for a replay. Derbyshire* had shown great spirit and bowled intelligently during their recovery, but the game was to turn against them when it mattered most.

SCOREBOARD

DERBYSHIRE

K J Barnett c Piper b Giles	38
C J Adams lbw b Small	61
*D M Jones b Small	3
G A Khan c Piper b Small	26
V P Clarke run out	1
†K M Krikken not out	29
P A J DeFreitas c Penney b Smith	12
G M Roberts b Donald	12
D E Malcolm b Donald	0
A J Harris not out	4
Extras (b 2, lb 12, w 8, nb 8)	30
Total (8 wkts, 50 overs)	**216**

K J Dean did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-114, 2-114, 3-130, 4-141, 5-150, 6-174, 7-201, 8-201.

BOWLING: Donald 10-0-32-2; Brown 10-1-38-0; Welch 5-0-34-0; Giles 10-0-37-1; Small 10-1-41-3; Smith 5-0-20-1.

WARWICKSHIRE

*N V Knight c and b Clarke	69
N M K Smith b Malcolm	17
D R Brown lbw b Clarke	58
D L Hemp b Clarke	1
D P Ostler b Clarke	6
T L Penney c DeFreitas b Harris	10
G Welch c Jones b Harris	16
A F Giles b Harris	1
†K J Piper run out	1
A A Donald not out	10
G C Small not out	14
Extras (lb 12, w 2)	14
Total (9 wkts, 49.5 overs)	*217*

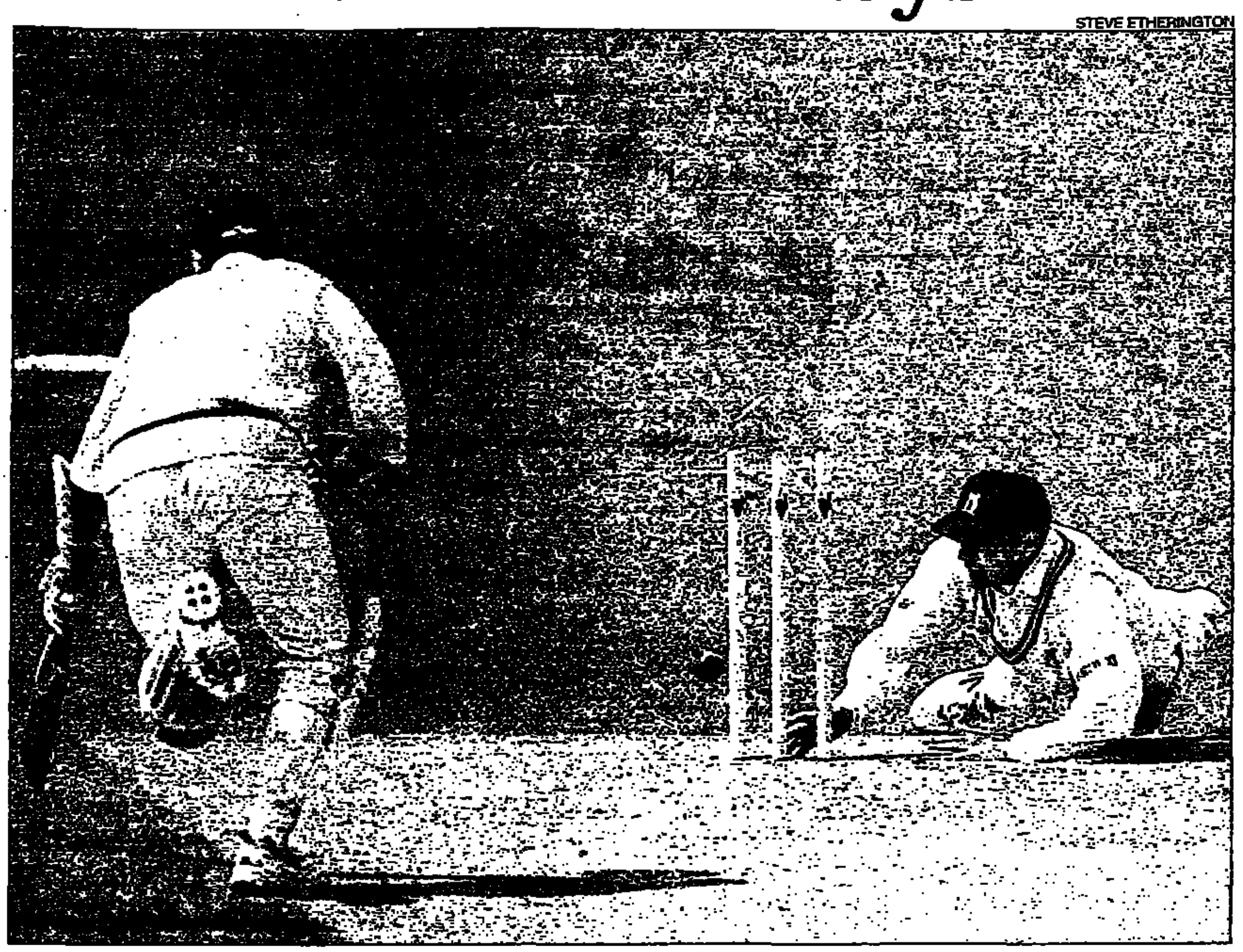
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-28, 2-124, 3-126, 4-152, 5-163, 6-191, 7-191, 8-193, 9-193

BOWLING: DeFreitas 10-2-32-0; Malcolm 6.5-0-38-1; Harris 10-0-41-3; Dean 3-0-13-0; Roberts 10-0-34-0; Clarke 10-0-49-4

Gold award: G C Small.

Umpires: V A Holder and B Leadbeater

STEVE ETHERINGTON



Smith, of Warwickshire, runs out Clarke for a single during a thrilling match at Derby yesterday

Ailing Middlesex out of their depth

By Ivo Tennant

LORD'S: Somerset (2pts) beat Middlesex by 27 runs

TO BEAT Somerset yesterday, Middlesex would have had to make a higher total to win a Benson and Hedges Cup match than they had ever managed before. It was *symptomatic of their form in* this competition that this never appeared feasible. Somerset, who batted with great vigour, are through to the quarter-finals, but will have to play away from Taunton.

Middlesex did not win any of their four qualifying matches, and it is necessary to go *back to 1974 to discover when* that last occurred. If Mike Gatting is in a tempestuous mood at present — and, of course, he will be — he can console himself in the knowledge that Mike Brearley, his predecessor as captain, did not always possess an alchemist's touch. At least not until he sorted out the perceived cliques in the dressing-room.

In 1974, Middlesex had Titmus and Murray, Emburey and Price. Take Ramprakash out of this side, as occurred on Monday when *he pulled a hamstring, and* there is not the same depth. Weekes made 77 yesterday and there was a considerable contribution from Moffat, but they never had a proper chance of winning.

This was not a particularly memorable match. There were so many stoppages on *Monday that Somerset's in*nings was a thoroughly disjointed affair, which meant that their achievement in totalling 287 for six was all the more praiseworthy. Bowler, who had 54 overnight, finished with 79 off 117 balls and won the gold award. He and Harden, who was suffering from back trouble and needed a runner, enabled Somerset to add 115 in 12 overs.

Twice in succession Harden swung Weekes for six. When he was finally caught at deep cover, off Fay, he had *belted 66 off 47 balls with four* fours and three sixes. There was further strongarm hitting from Turner, who struck two sixes in the last over of the innings. His unbeaten 30 came off only 11 balls.

Such specators as there were started to drift off to the Nursery End, where the Aus*tralians were practising with* marked intensity and scant sign of jet lag. They knew that Middlesex had about as much chance of beating Somerset as, well, Ireland. So it proved, although the margin of defeat misleadingly suggested the outcome was close.

Kallis played one superlative back-foot drive off Rose before he was taken at the wicket. The catch that Turner held to remove Gatting, right-handed, low and at full stretch, was splendidly athletic for such a tall man. Weekes *stayed until he tried to loft* Burns over long-on, striking nine fours and a six and rarely hitting the ball other than cleanly.

Nobody stayed with him for long. Pooley and Brown went cheaply, and when Moffat struck a half-century off 37 balls it only bolstered his own game. *Ramprakash will re*turn to play against Derbyshire at Lord's today, when Middlesex will be glad to be taking part in a game of proper cricket.

Emburey turns thoughts to appeal of retirement

John Emburey, in his 25th season as a county cricketer, is preparing to ease his way out of the first-class game in order to concentrate on his job as the Northamptonshire coach.

Emburey, 44, will begin to phase himself out of the championship side from middle to late June with a view to announcing his retirement soon afterwards. "It is not that championship cricket is getting any more difficult," he said. "I'm still enjoying it. I'm still bowling well and I still think I've got a bit to offer, but the priority now is the other players.

"Jeremy Snape has started the season well and is going to be our No 1 off spinner, and if Michael Davies, our young left-arm spinner, bowls anything like as well as he did in *pre-season when he gets back* from Loughborough University, I will be looking to rush him into the side."

Emburey, though, will still be available if required. "I will probably play some one-day cricket because I still regard myself as one of the best one-day bowlers in the country," he said, "and there may be the odd occasion when I am needed in the championship. There will be nothing to stop me playing . . . just as there is nothing to stop Graham Gooch opening the batting against Australia this summer. I think he should."

EXTRA COVER

Bowler's blast

Here we go again. The Australians have arrived and all the talk is about how much better their cricket is than ours. Rubbishing the Poms, they call it.

Peter Bowler, the Somerset captain, speaks the language. He was born in England but brought up in Australia, where he played for the under-19 side and for Tasmania in the Sheffield Shield. He believes that it is time we stopped believing the propaganda.

"What we should remember is that they have every reason to want to rubbish our cricket," he said. "They are not telling us how to improve our game because they want it to improve; they are doing it because they want us to pull our game apart.

"Frankly, they've got nothing to spout about. I remember Mike Gatting's side going over there and winning the Ashes ten years ago, and Allan Border saying that the difference between the teams was that county cricket was much stronger than Sheffield Shield cricket. I don't think that has changed.

"Any one of the players England pick this summer would thrive in the Sheffield Shield. We have just as much talent as they have — apart from a legendary leg spinner who has made a hell of a difference to their team in the last four or five years."

Different class

No one can say that the newly-formed England and Wales Cricket Board is not trying to get it right from top to bottom. Their latest initiative is a ring-bound book, simply written and graphically illustrated, entitled *Time to Play*, which has been sent to 5,000 primary schools all round the country.

It comes on top of a series of courses last year, when the board's development officers spent up to six hours instructing more than 3,300 teachers in the basics of coaching.

Caught in covers

The first reported case of ball-tampering this summer had a couple of novel twists. It was the batsman, not the bowler, who was accused, and the cover-up came before, and not after, the event.

It happened during Northamptonshire's game against Somerset, when the umpires asked Malachy Loye to change his bat because the nylon protective cover was marking the ball as though it was made of sandpaper.

Stuart Waterton, the product manager of Gray Nicolls, who supplied the bat, could not believe it. "It is not some new ploy that we have worked out to try to blunt the bowling attack," he said. "It is a bat with our 'supertest' cover which has been used around the world for at least 20 years."

Father Times

Downloading from the Internet without ISDN?

Here's something to pass the time.

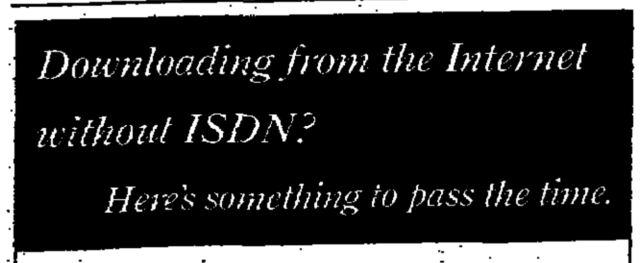


Fig. 11. The water-lily fold for table napkins.

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FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Milwaukee 9 Seattle 8; Minnesota 12 Toronto 2; Texas 4 Cleveland 2; Anaheim 16 Chicago White Sox 8; Baltimore 5 Oakland 1

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Florida 11 Houston 4; Colorado 9 Philadelphia 2; Atlanta 10 Pittsburgh 2.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Play-offs: Eastern Conference: Semi-final: New York 89 Miami 76 (New York leads best-of-seven series 3-1). Western Conference, Semi-final: Utah 98 Los Angeles Lakers 93 (OT) (Utah win series 4-1)

CRICKET

Independence Cup

Pakistan v Sri Lanka

GWALIOR, India (Pakistan won toss): Pakistan beat Sri Lanka by 30 runs

PAKISTAN

Saeed Anwar c Kaluwitharana b Muralitharan	36
Shahid Afridi c Kaluwitharana b S de Silva	52
*Ramiz Raja c P A de Silva b S de Silva	49
Ijaz Ahmed c Mahanama b Jayasuriya	29
Salim Malik b Vaas	49
Inzamam-ul-Haq b S de Silva	22
†Moin Khan not out	23
Mohammad Hussain not out	17
Extras (b 4, lb 3, w 5)	12
Total (6 wkts)	289

Azhar Mahmood, Saqlain Mushtaq and Aqib Javed did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-74, 2-112, 3-158, 4-190, 5-219, 6-260

BOWLING: Vaas 10-1-71-1; de Silva 10-0-59-3; Dharmasena 10-0-54-0; Muralitharan 10-1-39-1; Jayasuriya 10-0-59-1

SRI LANKA

S T Jayasuriya lbw b Aqib	0
†R S Kaluwitharana b Aqib	7
M S Atapattu c Ijaz b Aqib	0
P A De Silva c Ijaz b Aqib	33
*A Ranatunga c Mahmood b Salim	58
H P Tillekeratne c Inzamam b Salim	29
R S Mahanama c Ijaz b Saqlain	54
H D P K Dharmasena lbw b Saqlain	28
W P U J C Vaas b Aqib	15
M Muralitharan c Mahmood b Saqlain	7
S De Silva not out	13
Extras (lb 10, w 1, nb 4)	15
Total	259

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-0, 3-25, 4-59, 5-134, 6-134, 7-205, 8-229, 9-243

BOWLING: Aqib Javed 10-1-35-5; Azhar Mahmood 5-0-36-0; Saqlain Mushtaq 9.5-0-43-3; Shahid Afridi 8-0-58-0; Salim Malik 10-0-46-2; Mohammad Hussain 7-0-31-0

BAIN HOGG TROPHY: Portsmouth: Somerset 154 (E Taylor 5-41). Hampshire 158-7 (D Lane 57 not out). Hampshire won by three wickets. Urmston: Lancashire 173-8 (S P Titchard 64 not out); Durham 177-4 (S Hutton 68). Durham won by six wickets. Worcester: Gloucestershire 128-6; Worcestershire 129-0 (T S Curtis 57 not out, C J Schofield 52 not out). Worcestershire won by ten wickets. Leicester: Leicestershire 229-7 (D I Stevens 82 not out); Middlesex 123-8. Leicestershire won by 106 runs.

SCHOOLS MATCH: Under-15: Surrey Youth 221-3 (Z Mier 84, M Burns 65 not out). Croydon Schools 102-8. Match drawn.

RED STRIPE CUP: Kingstown, St Vincent: Leeward Islands 390 and 107-4 (R D Jacobs 56 not out); Windward Islands 158 and 337 (K Martin 65, B Watt 64). Leeward Islands won by six wickets. Port of Spain: Barbados 304 and 288 (W Reid 54 not out, I R Bishop 4-91). Trinidad and Tobago 361 and 99-1 (S Ragoonath 73). Match drawn. Kingston: Jamaica 206 and 251 (D Morgan 51); Guyana 271 and 116-1 (S Chanderpaul 56 not out). Match drawn.

EQUESTRIANISM

LAND ROVER WORLD THREE-DAY EVENT RANKINGS: 1, M King (GB) 162pts; 2, D O'Connor (US) 154; 3, M Weissbecker (US) 107; 4, A Nicholson (NZ) 104; 5, A Hermann (Swe) 85; 6, J Burne (US) 83; 7, W Fox-Pitt (GB) 82; 8, B Tait (NZ) 78; equal 9, P Cribb (Aus) and K O'Connor (US) 76.

FOOTBALL

Monday's late results

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: First division: Liverpool 3 Everton 1

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: League Cup: Final: Tottenham 3 *Wimbledon 2*

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Thamesmead 0 Herne Bay 1

DUTCH LEAGUE: Roda JC Kerkrade 2 NAC Breda 1

SPANISH LEAGUE: Valencia 1 Deportivo La Coruña 1

ARGENTINIAN LEAGUE: Boca Juniors 6 Gimnasia y Esgrima 1; Gimnasia de Jujuy 1 Newell's Old Boys 2; Estudiantes 0 Ferrocarril Oeste 1. Colon 5 River Plate 1. Lanus 1 Huracan de Corrientes 2; Deportivo Español 2 Union 1. Huracan 1 Banfield 0; Platense 0 Independiente 3. Racing Club 2 San Lorenzo 0

BRAZILIAN LEAGUE: São Paulo championship: Botafogo 3 Aracatuba 2, America 3 Rio Branco 2; Guarani 1 Port Santista 0; Santos 2 Corinthians 0; Palmeiras 1 Uniao São Joao 3, Portuguesa Dep 1 Internacional 1, São Paulo 1 São Jose 1, Juventus 3 Mogi Mirim 1. Rio de Janeiro championship: Fluminense 2 Bangu; Botafogo 1 Flamengo 1; Americano 1 Vasco da Gama 1

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL MATCH: United States 6 England 0 (in Portland Oregon)

REAL TENNIS

HOLYPORT: Potterton British professional championship: Final: L Deuchar bt M Gooding 6-2, 6-3, 6-4

NEWMARKET: Scott Hurley Cup, Over-50 Amateur Championship. Semi-finals: J Ward and M McMurrugh bt P Danby and J Burnet, 6-0, 6-0; H Angus and S Leigh bt A Beeson and C Dean, 6-2, 6-2. Final: Angus and Leigh bt Ward and McMurrugh, 6-4, 1-6, 6-3

RUGBY UNION

ENGLAND UNDER-21 SQUAD (to tour Australia June 22 to July 14): Backs: T Beim (Sale), A Blyth (Newcastle), J Brown (Coventry), C Catlin (Gloucester), D Harris (Moseley), R Hitchmough (Orrell), J Lewsey (Bristol), J O'Reilly (Sale), M Perry (Bath), P Sampson (Wasps), M Shaw (Newcastle), F Waters (Bristol), Martin Wood (Wasps), Michael Wood (West Hartlepool). Forwards: D Barnes (West Hartlepool), J Beardshaw (Wasps), R Bryan (Bath), P Gustard (Blaydon), V Hartland (West Hartlepool), C Horsman (Bath), R Horton (Middlesbrough), B Kay (Waterloo), A Long (Bath), C Murphy (West Hartlepool), E Pearce (Gloucester), N *Spence (Rotherham), R Winters (Bedford),* M Worsley (Orrell), J Worsley (Wasps), D Zaltzman (Saracens).

SHOOTING

BISLEY: London and Middlesex Open pistol championships: Air Pistol: 1, M Gault 586; 2, P Leatherdale 572; 3, M Baxter 560. Free pistol: 1, Gault 556; 2, Leatherdale 543/135; 3, M Kemp 543/134. Women's match: 1, C Benest 563; 2, B Barber 560; 3, K Wiseman 555. Rapid fire: 1, H Hunter 5,692; 2, R Craven 564.93; 3, A Szulc 564/92. Centre fire: 1, Gault 586; 2, J Cairns 575; 3, R Hale 570. Standard pistol: 1, P Cutts 559; 2, B Carroll 558; 3, L Chalk 557. Standard handgun: 1, Gault 578; 2, J Emmerson 573/99; 3, A Green 573/98. UIT Aggregate: 1, Szulc 1661; 2, A Thomas 1651; 3, Cairns 1642. Service Pistol A: 1, C Webb 170; 2, R Brown 146; 3, S Barnes 140. Service pistol B: 1, Webb 115; 2, L James 97; 3, R Munday 96. Police Pistol: 1, J Webb 299; 2, B Munt 294; 3, R Brown 289

SPEEDWAY

EXETER: World championship: British semi-final, first leg: 1, N Tatum (Oxford) 14; 2, D Barker (Eastbourne) 12; 3, S Wilson (unattached) 12

ELITE LEAGUE: Wolverhampton 51 Belle Vue 39

TENNIS

ROME: Men's tournament: First round: C Moya (Sp) bt S Pescosolido (It) 6-4, 6-4; S Bruguera (Sp) bt S Stolle (Aus) 6-1, 6-4; A Costa (Sp) bt A Radulescu (Ger) 7-5, 6-2; A Berasategui (Sp) bt D Vacek (Cz) 6-3, 6-4; H Gumy (Arg) bt M Chang (US) 6-3, 6-2; T Johansson (Swe) bt D Sanguinetti (It) 5-7, 6-3, 6-2; P Haarhuis (Holl) bt T Woodbridge (Aus) 7-5, 6-1; B Becker (Ger) bt A Gaudenzi (It) 7-6, 6-2; T Henman (GB) bt R Carretero (Sp) 4-6, 7-5, 2-0 ret; Y Kafelnikov (Russ) bt J Sanchez (Sp) 7-5, 7-6

BERLIN: Women's tournament: First round: L Neiland (Lat) bt A-G Sidot (Fr) 6-3, 6-4; M Pierce (Fr) bt E Wagner (Ger) 6-2, 6-3; B Schultz-McCarthy (Holl) bt P Schnyder (Switz) 6-1, 6-4; E Martincova (Cz) bt Y Likhovtseva (Russ) 6-1, 6-4; S Testud (Fr) bt A Sugiyama (Japan) 6-2, 6-1; B Rittner (Ger) bt E Callens (Bel) 6-1, 6-0; A Kournikova (Russ) bt S Plischke (Austria) 6-2, 6-2; Y Basuki (Indo) bt Shi Ting Wang (Taiwan) 6-4, 6-3; B Rittner (Ger) bt E Callens (Bel) 6-1, 6-0

CARDIFF: LTA Satellite tournament: First round (GB unless stated): J Delgado bt M Maclagan 6-3, 6-2; V Snyman (SA) bt T Spinks 4-6, 6-4, 6-4; J Neumüller (Austria) bt C Auffray (Fr) 6-3, 6-3; A Gonzalez (Sp) bt M Smejda (Austria) 4-6, 7-6, 6-4

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Benson & Hedges Cup

Gloucestershire v Kent

BRISTOL (Kent won toss): no result Gloucestershire (1pts) Kent (1)

KENT: 239 for 7 (G R Cowdrey 77)

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

M A Lynch not out	30
A J Wright b Fleming	8
R J Cunliffe not out	2
Extras (lb 8, w 2)	10
Total (1 wkt, 9 overs)	**50**

S Young, *M W Alleyne, R I Dawson, †R C Russell, T H C Hancock, M C J Ball, A M Smith and R P Davis did not bat

FALL OF WICKET: 1-45

BOWLING: McCague 3-0-12-0; Headley 2-0-10-0; Fleming 2-0-10-1; Ealham 2-0-16-0

Umpires: B Dudleston and G Sharp

Middlesex v Somerset

LORD'S (Middlesex won toss): Somerset (2pts) beat Middlesex by 27 runs

SOMERSET

M N Lathwell c Weekes b Hewitt	0
M Burns c Moffat b Fraser	54
S C Ecclestone b Hewitt	9
*P D Bowler c Hewitt b Kallis	79
G D Rose c Gatting b Kallis	9
P J Harden c Weekes b Fay	66
†R J Turner not out	30
K A Parsons not out	0
Extras (b 6, lb 15, w 17, nb 2)	40
Total (6 wkts, 50 overs)	**287**

J I D Kerr, S Herzberg and A R Caddick did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-17, 3-125, 4-145, 5-246, 6-269

BOWLING: Hewitt 10-1-49-2; Fay 10-0-63-1; Fraser 10-1-23-1; Johnson 10-0-50-0; Kallis 7-0-49-2; Weekes 3-0-32-0

MIDDLESEX

P N Weekes c Rose b Burns	77
J H Kallis c Turner b Rose	10
*M W Gatting c Turner b Kerr	16
J C Pooley lbw b Rose	4
†K R Brown lbw b Burns	9
S P Moffat c Turner b Caddick	60
K P Dutch c Ecclestone b Parsons	20
R L Johnson c Bowler b Kerr	19
A R C Fraser b Kerr	4
J P Hewitt b Caddick	6
R A Fay not out	3
Extras (lb 13, w 17, nb 2)	32
Total (48.1 overs)	**260**

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-24, 2-95, 3-118, 4-127, 5-143, 6-197, 7-231, 8-240, 9-253

BOWLING: Caddick 9.1-1-25-2; Rose 10-0-66-2; Parsons 10-0-74-1; Kerr 10-1-34-3; Burns 6-0-28-2; Herzberg 3-0-20-0

Gold award: P D Bowler.

Umpires: D J Constant and A G T Whitehead

No play

Edinburgh: Scotland v Nottinghamshire. Downpatrick: Ireland v Essex. No result one point each

FINAL TABLES

Group A

	P	W	L	NR	Pts	RR
Yorkshire	5	4	1	0	9	16.13
Warwickshire	5	3	2	0	6	15.21
Derbyshire	5	3	2	0	6	2.68
Lancashire	5	3	2	0	6	-1.50
Worcestershire	5	2	3	0	4	-3.90
Minor Counties	5	0	5	0	0	-28.56

Group B

	P	W	L	NR	Pts	RR
Leics	4	3	1	0	6	18.15
Northants	4	3	1	0	6	9.20
Durham	4	2	2	0	4	14.74
Notts	4	1	2	1	3	-13.07
Scotland	4	0	3	1	1	-51.27

Group C

	P	W	L	NR	Pts	RR
Kent	5	4	0	1	9	9.84
Surrey	5	4	1	0	8	21.19
Gloucs	5	2	2	1	5	7.06
Sussex	5	2	3	0	4	-0.51
Hampshire	5	1	4	0	2	-15.50
British Univs	5	1	4	0	2	-19.57

Group D

	P	W	L	NR	Pts	RR
Essex	4	3	0	1	7	8.54
Somerset	4	3	1	0	6	29.88
Glamorgan	4	2	2	0	4	-6.83
Ireland	4	1	2	1	3	-32.62
Middlesex	4	0	4	0	0	-6.75

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket match*

European Cup Winners' Cup
Final
Barcelona v Paris Saint-Germain
(at Feyenoord Stadium, Rotterdam)

Nationwide League
Play-offs
First division
Semi-finals, second leg
Ipswich (1) v Sheff Utd (1) (7.45)
* Wolves (1) v Crystal Palace (3) (7.45)

Second division
Semi-finals, second leg
* Brentford (2) v Bristol City (1) (7.45)
* Luton (1) v Crewe (2) (7.45)

Third division
Semi-finals, second leg
Northampton (1) v Cardiff (0) (7.45)
* Swansea (0) v Chester (0)

CRICKET

Britannic Assurance county championship
11.0, first day of four, 104 overs minimum
CHELMSFORD: Essex v Durham
SOUTHAMPTON: Hampshire v Leicestershire
CANTERBURY: Kent v Glamorgan
OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Nottinghamshire
LORD'S: Middlesex v Derbyshire
TAUNTON: Somerset v Sussex
THE OVAL: Surrey v Gloucestershire
EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Yorkshire

University matches
11.30, first day of three
FENNER'S: Cambridge University v Northamptonshire
THE PARKS: Oxford University v Worcestershire

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (second day of four): Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Derbyshire. Hove: Sussex v Surrey. (First day of three): Felling CC: Durham v Hampshire. Maidstone: Kent v Essex. Fleetwood: Lancashire v Glamorgan. North Perrott: Somerset v Leicestershire. Bingley: Yorkshire v Warwickshire

OTHER SPORT

EQUESTRIANISM: Royal Windsor Horse Show

GOLF: Men's international: Sweden v Scotland (at Kristinstad)

Lord's in closer link with ladies

Women's Cricket
By Sarah Potter

The future is bright for women's cricket. The sponsorship deal with Vodafone — a £13 million, five-year package — negotiated through the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), could mean as much as £50,000 a year to the women.

The backing has been made possible by the increasingly close links being forged with the men's game. Here, the Women's Cricket Association (WCA) is following the lead of all its international rivals; Australia and New Zealand have *benefited most from the* professional structure of their male counterparts. Money makes a difference, as better standards lift the profile and credibility of the sport.

England's women recently called on Mike Gatting to fine-tune their preparations, not so much for the series of five one-day internationals against South Africa this summer but more for their defence of the World Cup in India this winter. The Middlesex captain and new England selector led a training session at Lord's in March and has agreed to help again in the future.

"What impressed me was that the WCA made an effort to get people in, talk about the weaknesses they had identified, and do something about them," Gatting said.

Those weaknesses are being assessed by Megan *Lear, the England coach,* and include physical fitness. Gatting adds, without trace of irony: "They need to do a little more work in the gym — not to make them macho women but to improve strength and general fitness."

It is a process already under way. England's finest now regularly pump and pound aching muscles at Lilleshall to personal programmes and squad testing ensures compliance. Mental preparation is also high on the list of priorities.

"They must learn to be confident in everything they do," Gatting said. "To always have a plan when they go out and play to it. If that fails, there is always your back-up plan. It all helps to raise standards."

Gatting suggests that the women need to play against better players: men. Not, he emphasises, for the women to be "humiliated", but to quicken up reactions. "If you play over a period of time against players quicker and stronger, you get used to it. Under-19s would be a good starting-point."

Or perhaps even younger. A pity, then, that *Laura Joyce, 12, a Middle*sex junior, was refused entry to the Easter coaching course held at the Lord's indoor school on the grounds that it is traditionally an event reserved for the sons and grandsons of MCC members. Laura's mother has written to the WCA executive director, Barbara Daniels, seeking an explanation.

IRONICALLY, relations between Lord's and the ladies have never been better. On August 20, the little white gate leading onto the green and pre*cious turf will once again* open, in a flutter of white skirts and skipping heartbeats, to admit England's women for a one-day international. For this day, at least, no corner of cricket's home is out of reach.

"We get the same treatment as an international men's team, including practice and changing facilities. We are very well looked after," Daniels said.

By that time, in high summer, at least one stuffy MCC rule will have changed: the Long Room will be a smoke-free zone. Curiously, some opponents of the smoking ban seemed to equate their campaign with that of the "no women members" lobby. It seems that change in a men's club can feel threatening. Perhaps the clear support for cleaner air bodes well for a move towards equality.

Sarah Potter's column will appear fortnightly during the season

YESTERDAY'S RACING RESULTS

York

Going: good, good to soft in places

2.05 (1m 3f 195yd) 1, **Angus-G** (K Darley 2-1 fav, Richard Evans's nap); 2, Remaadi Sun (5-1); 3, Temptress (9-1). 12 ran. ¾l, 5l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote £2.60; £1.30, £1.80, £2.90. DF £3.90. Trio £18.90. CSF £9.47. Tricast £65.84

2.35 (1m 2f 85yd) 1, **The Fly** (M Hills, 4-1 jt-fav, Thunderer's nap); 2, Siverani (4-1 jt-fav); 3, Blue River (8-1). 13 ran. 3l, nk. B Hills. Tote £4.90; £2.00, £1.60, £2.00. DF £5.50. Trio £14.50. CSF £17.80. Tricast £114.54

3.10 (1m 2f 85yd) 1, **Reams Of Verse** (K Fallon, 11-10 fav, Private Handicapper's top rating and Newmarket Correspondent's nap); 2, Vagabond Chanteuse (14-1); 3, Etoile (11-1). 10 ran. 11l, hd. H Cecil. Tote £2.10; £1.10, £3.10, £3.20. DF £12.30. Trio £49.50. CSF £18.60

3.40 (6f) 1, **Bollin Joanne** (G Parkin, 10-1); 2, Tumbleweed Ridge (15-2); 3, World Premier (8-1); 4, Cyrano's Lad (9-1). Double Splendour 7-2 fav. 16 ran. Nk, 1½l. T Easterby. Tote £9.80; £2.20, £2.00, £2.40, £2.60. DF £55.70. Trio £179.00. CSF £82.57. Tricast £628.06

4.10 (5f) 1, **Balance The Books** (Pat Eddery, 3-1); 2, Indian Silver (11-4 jt-fav); 3, Child Prodigy (11-4 jt-fav). 5 ran. 1½l, ¾l. R Hannon. Tote £3.30; £1.70, £1.80. DF £4.60. CSF £10.60

4.40 (1m 5f 194yd) 1, **Flirting Around** (K Fallon, 13-8 fav); 2, Windsor Castle (3-1); 3, Zinzan (3-1). 5 ran. Hd, 2l. M Stoute. Tote £2.00; £1.10, £1.70. DF £2.90. CSF £6.02.

Jackpot: £3,697.50.

Placepot: £17.50.

Quadpot: £8.20.

Chepstow

Going: good to soft

1.50 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, **Blade Of Fortune** (Mr J Tizzard, 9-2); 2, Apache Park (7-2 fav); 3, Witherkay (20-1). 14 ran. NR Technical Move. 3l, nk. V Greenway. Tote £6.60; £2.60, £1.80, £4.20. DF £6.40. Trio £108.80. CSF £17.17

2.20 (3m ch) 1, **Malwood Castle** (A Thornton, 5-1); 2, Thermal Warrior (2-1 fav); 3, Nordic Valley (7-1). 9 ran. 26l, 10l. R Alner. Tote £6.10; £1.60, £1.30, £1.50. DF £5.70. Trio £14.70. CSF £13.75. Tricast £59.36

2.55 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, **Diwali Dancer** (A P McCoy, 5-2 fav); 2, Ehtefaal (9-2); 3, Lord McMurrough (5-1). 7 ran. 4l, nk. M Pipe. Tote £2.80; £2.20, £1.90. DF £8.70. CSF £13.37

3.25 (3m ch) 1, **Earthmover** (Miss P Gundry, 1-2 fav); 2, Sams Heritage (8-1); 3, *Corner Boy (4-1). 7 ran. 9l, dist. R Barber.* Tote £1.50; £1.10, £1.70. DF £3.70. CSF £4.43

3.55 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, **Honeybed Wood** (R Johnson, 7-2); 2, Cullin Caper (10-1); 3, Spirit Level (20-1). Red Tel 100-30 fav (pu). 12 ran. 4l, 13l. M Sheppard. Tote £5.40; £1.70, £3.90, £5.40. DF £33.40. Trio £253.40 (part won. Pool of £74.96 carried forward to 2.35 at York today). CSF £35.58. Tricast £581.99

4.25 (2m 3f 110yd ch) 1, **Red Branch** (J Culloty, 11-10 fav); 2, The Carrot Man (11-2); 3, Seek The Faith (5-2). 6 ran. 12l, 4l. J King. Tote £2.10; £1.30, £2.60. DF £5.20. *CSF £7.40*

4.55 (2m 110yd flat) 1, **The Village Way** (R Johnson, 4-7 fav); 2, Rupert Blues (2-1); 3, Amothebambo (20-1). 9 ran. 8l, 2½l. D Nicholson. Tote £1.80; £1.30, £1.10, £2.90. DF £1.90. Trio £16.20. CSF £1.89

Placepot: £44.40. **Quadpot:** £34.60.

Monday's late details

Windsor

Going: soft

7.30 (1m 2f 7yd) 1, **Routontaine** (J Reid, 4-1); 2, Zidac (14-1); 3, Cedez Le Passage (20-1). Kota 100-30 fav. 12 ran. 3l, 2l. W Muir. Tote £4.80; £1.60, £4.40, £3.70. DF £45.50. CSF £50.40. Trio £159.40

8.00 (5f 10yd) 1, **Banningham Blade** (Martin Dwyer, 9-1); 2, Chips (5-6 fav); 3, Golden Mirage (7-1). 7 ran. Nk, hd. F Ivory. Tote £9.30; £3.40, £1.90. DF £5.40. CSF £15.17

8.30 (1m 2f 7yd) 1, **Tom Tailor** (L Dettori, 9-2); 2, Scoss (14-1); 3, In Question (2-1 fav); 4, Northern Touch (100-1). 16 ran. 1l, 1l. D Elsworth. Tote £5.00; £2.00, £4.70, £1.40. *DF £68.40. CSF £59.35*

Placepot: £506.50 **Quadpot:** £186.10

Towcester

Going: good to soft, soft in places

7.15 (3m 1f ch) 1, **Magnolia Man** (Mr N Harris, 9-4); 2, Lucky Christopher (7-4 fav); 3, Lupy Minstrel (8-1). 6 ran. NR Fadross Qualitair Memory. 5l, 6l. Miss D Cole. Tote £3.30; £1.70, £1.20. DF £3.10. CSF £6.56

7.45 (3m 1f ch) 1, **Ballydougan** (D Walsh, 14-1); 2, Brogeen Lady (7-2); 3, Grizzly Bear (14-1). 8 ran. Mr Pickpocket 7-4 fav. Nk, 1l. R Mathew. Tote £15.40; £2.10, £1.40, £4.30. *DF £19.00. CSF £59.96*

8.15 (3m hdle) **Stormyfairweather** (M A Fitzgerald, 3-1 jt fav); 2, Rythm Rock (5-1); 3, Physical Fun (5-1 jt fav). 13 ran. 6l, 5l. N Henderson. Tote £4.40; £2.60, £1.40, £1.20. DF £5.90. CSF £18.10

Placepot: £93.40 **Quadpot:** £14.50

هكذا في الاصل

Mere baubles? Goulding, left, hoists the Challenge Cup. Richards shows off the Pilkington Cup and Cantona displays the FA Cup

A showpiece losing its magic

SIMON BARNES

Midweek View

There is an ancient story about George Best. Already sunk deep into his chaotic retirement, he was lolling after a casino gambling spree in a hotel room filled with fivers and a blonde. And the Irish waiter opening the second bottle of champagne asked: "Tell me, George — where did it all go wrong?"

On Saturday, Middlesbrough play in the FA Cup Final. It is their second cup final of the year, for they had a previous glory run in the Coca-Cola Cup. This is a tremendous achievement and across football, people have spent the week asking where it all went wrong.

Well, it *has* gone wrong, has it not? Middlesbrough have been relegated from the Premiership, and all that remains is to watch the financial disaster, the diaspora of international superstars, the dismantling of a dream and the new vision of English football being rent in twain.

What, then of the FA Cup? Is this merely a bauble, a trifle, a bagatelle, scarcely worth the trouble of mentioning? Time was when the FA Cup was the pride and the glory of English football: a vision of triumph compared to which the League championship was nothing. The league: worthy but dull, nourishing but no feast: palatable but no champagne.

Now, it seems, the FA Cup Final is but an after-dinner mint: an agreeable, but frivolous thing that comes after the serious business has been completed. It is not to be confused with the real thing, which is league competition.

The downgrading of the cup is not unique to football. It happened last weekend in rugby union. Leicester beat Sale in the Pilkington Cup final, in a match that was spectacularly lacking in any sense of occasion, of drama, even of sport.

It was a match too far for two knackered sides. Their league meeting, just a week before, had been full of incident and drama, but the cup final held no spice. Leicester ground out a win that pleased no one but themselves. The end of the season came with the final whistle — and it could not come quickly enough for either side.

Rugby league has gone the other way. Now we have a summer Super League, the Challenge Cup has become a kind of pre-season friendly. At the final, the weekend before last, the side of the moment, Bradford, gave a wayward performance against St Helens. Again, a poor match.

Yet when the sides met in the *soi-disant* Super League last weekend, Bradford were a side transformed. They gave a performance of will and muscle and they were men inspired. Never mind the cup: this was the real thing.

That is what managers say again and again. A cup run is nice, but the league is our priority. When a small club pulls off a giant-killing, no manager basks in the glory. Instead, he talks about the league and what he will do with the money. Which reminds me of the chairman of the small club giving a pre-cup-match pep talk: "Win this one for me, lads, and I promise you I'll spend all the money on new players."

The relegation of a glorious cup victory to the status of financial bonus is an aspect of being a professional. The cup is all very well as a weekend off, but next Saturday's league match is *serious*. And we are supposed to admire the professionalism that is thereby revealed: the sense of purpose, the single-mindeness, above all the understanding that results are what matter. And why not?, because they do. The manager's job depends on such things, so too do the jobs of players, in football and in both codes of rugby.

Now professionalism is a thing to look for — at least in a professional colleague. You also admire it in the person who comes to fix the pipes. You do not look to a plumber for beauty, grace under pressure, wit, courage and a taste for glory. You seek only this quality of professionalism, which in the end is only the absence of vice.

"The great fallacy is that the game is first and last about winning," said Danny Blanchflower. "It's nothing of the kind. The game is about glory. It's about doing things in style, with a flourish, about going out and beating the other lot, not waiting for them to die of boredom."

Few players, and fewer managers, would dare to say such a thing today. And, brainwashed by their professionalism, we spectators take on the same values. Good professional performance, people say knowledgably, as they leave a jaw-crackingly tedious victory.

But in our hearts we seek more than seamless, viceless competence. When we watch a match, we the spectators are not at work. We are at play and we are free to seek non-professional qualities. Things like beauty and glory and courage. By downgrading the cup competitions, sporting people downgrade the essence of sport. They have forgotten that sport is a game — and that spectators watch it for fun. In the end, we can save professionalism for our professions.

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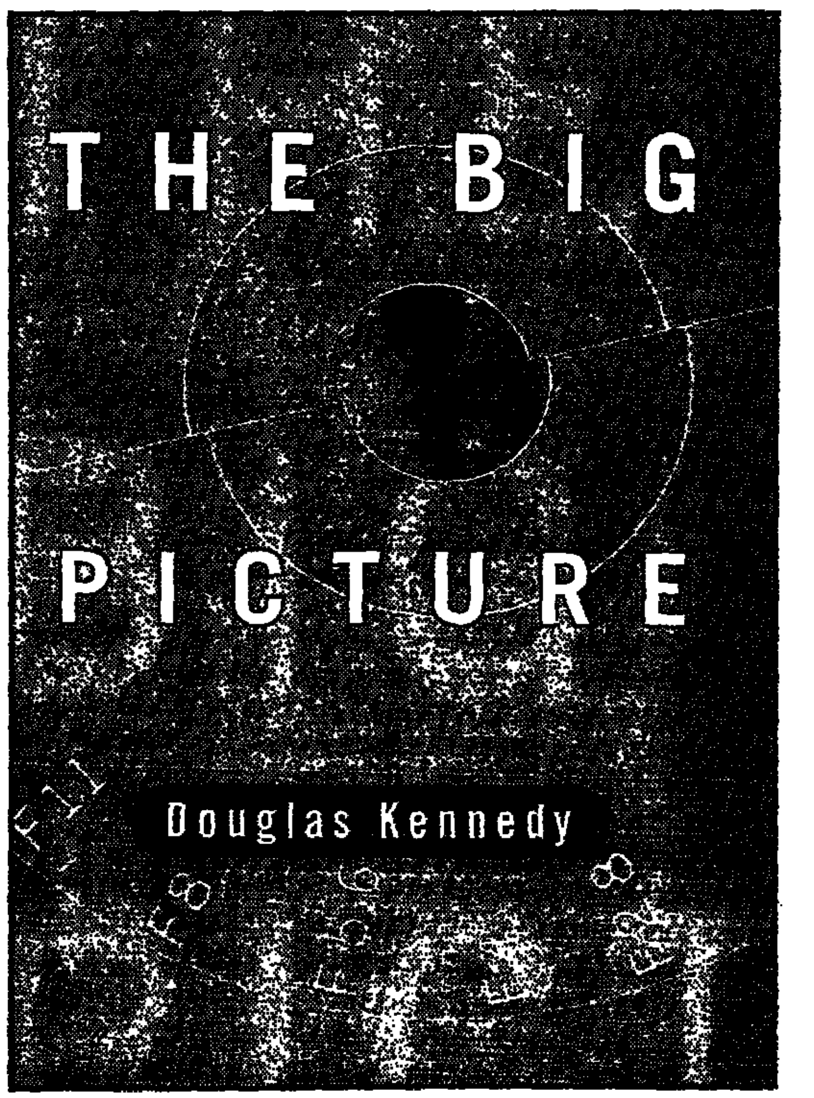
CAN BE ABSOLUTE MURDER



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ABACUS

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page *44*

ABANNITION
(b) A banishment for one or two years for manslaughter, according to Blount's *Glossary* of 1656.
ATRAMENT
(a) Blacking or ink, any similar black substance, as the ink of the cuittle-fish. From the Latin *atrāmentum* blacking.
BUMBARD
(b) A bumble-bee, a drone. Also figuratively a droning person, a driveller. Hence, as an adjective, lazy, indolent, drivelling. Hence the American *bum*.
BASTO
(a) The ace of clubs in quadrille and ombre. From the Spanish, where the whole suit of Clubs is called Bastos, and the ace of Clubs is el Basto par excellence.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
1 Rxg7+! Kxg7 2 Rxf6 and the next move from White will be a devastating discovered check.

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TELEVISION CHOICE

Art from the front lines

Antiques Roadshow
BBC1, 6.50pm

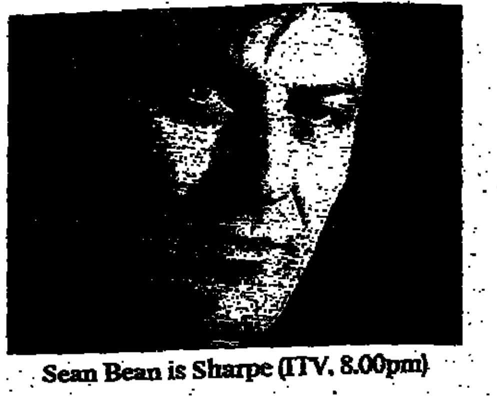
Regular viewers may recall an edition of the *Antiques Roadshow* which featured a series of paintings made in Normandy after D-Day. They were brought along by the artist, who had served in the Allied invasion force, and created enormous interest. Belatedly, as the programme was shown three years ago, they are the cue for a wider examination of war art. Hugh Scully visits the Imperial War Museum in London with John Keane, who was an official war artist in the Gulf War. The museum's extensive collection of paintings from 20th-century conflicts provides material for the discussion which culminates in Keane's recollection of his time in the Gulf and a defence of his *Mickey Mouse At the Front*, which caused much affront when it was first made public.

Sharpe's Justice
ITV, 8.00pm

A lull in the Napoleonic wars, with Boney exiled to Elba, allows this episode to break the mould by being set entirely in England. Instead of fighting the French, Sean Bean's Major Sharpe is posted to his native Yorkshire to help mill owners put down unrest from discontented workers. As Sharpe's humble background leads him to have more sympathy for the oppressed than their oppressors, this soon provokes a conflict of loyalties. The plotting, as always, is satisfyingly rich, and it draws fruitfully on the social history of the period, in particular exploiting tensions within and between the classes. The excellent Douglas Henshall shines as Sharpe's main adversary, an arrogant and foppish captain of the yeomanry. Next week, for his final adventure, Sharpe helping to win the battle of Waterloo.

Planet Showbiz
Channel 4, 8.30pm

Among the latest British television formats to be sold to the United States is *Cracker*, and Mark Lamarr's breezy showbusiness magazine introduces us to the actor who would be Robbie Coltrane. It cannot be said that the relatively trim Robert Pastorelli bears much physical resemblance to Coltrane's chubby psychologist, nor does the American version of the awful Fitz swear or smoke. You immediately suspect that Hollywood has got its sticky fingers on the character and done its sanitising worst, though Pastorelli denies it strenuously. Lamarr also makes the trip to Normal, Illinois, for a chat with the unconventional pop star, Beck, who once appeared on *Top of the Pops* with pensioners as his backing band. He has moved on and up since then, and has a big-selling album to prove it.


Sean Bean is Sharpe (ITV, 8.00pm)

Race for the Title
BBC1, 10.30pm

For football buffs without satellite who feel deprived now that the BBC has lost so much coverage to Sky, here is some compensation. The FA Carling Premiership season finished only on Sunday but the editing suites have been busy splicing together the highlights. Much of the material will be fresh in the mind, particularly the goals which decided the winners and the relegated. But it does seem an age since Kevin Keegan's unpredicted resignation from Newcastle or Manchester United's thrashing by Southampton. The programme does not pretend to be anything more than a compilation of smoothly-assembled clips. Deeper assessments of the 1996-97 season must wait. Meanwhile there is plenty to enjoy, not least the skills of the overseas players who have become an increasing presence on English fields.

Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

20/20: A View of the Century
Radio 4, 7.45pm

Whatever the merits of the argument about the alleged "dumbing down" of the BBC, there is surely no question that the Corporation continues to provide the best in set-piece documentaries. *20/20* is a prime example, one of the most absorbing projects launched in radio for many a long year. The third and last series, is presented by Michael Ignatieff, who also introduced series two. The theme tonight is migration: Ignatieff regards the migrant as the "Everyman of the 20th century". He begins with the migration of seven million people brought about by the ending of the Second World War but the programme also covers intra-national migration, such as the south-north movement of blacks in America.

Survivors: James's Story
Radio 4, 10.02am (FM only)

There is a theory that the British get enough reminders that much of the world does not live in a wealthy liberal democracy where hospital waiting lists and school class sizes are among our chief worries. But anyone feeling inured to deeper misfortune should listen to this programme. James Mubira grew up in a wealthy Ugandan family whose idyll was shattered when secret police raided their home, killing every member of the family except James, then aged 15. He was held in a cramped cell for two years, was beaten and burnt by his captors and is permanently disfigured. Amnesty International won his freedom and he came to Britain, where he is building a new life against all the odds.

Peter Barnard

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe and Boy Lard **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley **2.00pm** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Kevin Greening **6.15** Newsbeat **6.30** Evening Session **8.30** Global Update **8.40** John Peel **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs **1.00am** Claire Sturgess **4.00** Clive Warren

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Alex Lester **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Nick Barraclough **8.00** Folk on Two **9.00** Bright Young Things. The first of a new series in which Kathryn Tickell explores the hidden talent of young musicians **9.30** Speaking Volumes **10.00** Bing Crosby **10.30** Richard Allinson **12.05am** Steve Madden **3.00** Charles Nove

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme **9.00** The Magazine **11.00** The Queen's Speech **12.30pm** Midday with Mair **2.00** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** John Inverdale Nationwide **7.00** News Extra **7.35** Football Night. Coverage of the Nationwide League playoff matches. Plus the National Lottery live **10.00** Dominik Diamond **11.00** News Extra **12.00** After Hours **2.00am** Up All Night with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr **7.00** Paul Ross **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Lorraine Kelly **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Peter Deeley **7.00** Moz Dee's Sportszone **10.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour. **6.00am** Newsday **6.30** Europe Today **7.30** World Today **7.45** Sports International **8.15** Off the Shelf **8.30** Meridian Live **9.10** Pause for Thought **9.15** Concert Hall **10.05** Business **10.15** Farming World **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Sport **11.30** One Planet **12.30pm** Sports International **1.00** News in German **1.05** Business **1.15** Britain Today **1.30** Soundbyte **1.45** Sport **2.00** Newshour **3.05** Outlook **3.30** Megamix **4.05** Sport **4.15** Performance **4.30** News in German **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** Business **5.45** Britain Today **6.15** World Today **6.30** News in German **6.45** Sport **7.30** The Works **8.01** Outlook **8.25** Pause for Thought **8.30** Multitrack X-Press **9.00** Newshour **10.05** Business **10.15** Britain Today **10.30** On Screen **11.30** World Today **11.45** Sport **12.05am** Outlook **12.30** Multitrack: X-Press **1.30** From Our Own Correspondent **1.45** Britain Today **2.30** Omnibus **3.30** Meridian Books **4.05** Business **4.15** Sport **4.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **7.00** Mike Read **9.00** The Hall of Fame Hour **10.00** Henry Kelly **1.00pm** Lunchtime Concerto. Handel (Concerto Grosso in A major, Op 6 No 11) **3.00** Jamie Crick **7.00** Classic Newsnight **7.30** Sonata: Boismortier (Bassoon Sonata in D minor, Op 50 No 4) **8.00** Singapore Week Evening Concert. Stravinsky (Petrushka); Erik Satie (Trois Gymnopédies); Shostakovich (Symphony No 10 in E minor, Op 93) **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Lunchtime Concerto (r)

VIRGIN RADIO

6.30am Russ 'n' Jono **10.00** Graham Dene **1.00pm** Jeremy Clark **4.00** Nicky Horne **6.00** Paul Coyte (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Randal Lee Rose

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Merbecke (*Domine Ihesu Christe*); Nielsen (Symphony No 6, Sinfonia Semplice); Shostakovich (Prelude and Fugue, Op 87 No 22); Mozart (Piano Concerto No 23 in A, K488); Rossini, arr Lindberg/Pontinen (Overture to The Barber of Seville); Janacek (Sinfonietta)
9.00 Morning Collection, with Penny Gore. Includes Bizet (*Carmen Suite No 2*); Poulenc (Salve Regina); Berwald (Symphony No 3 in C, Sinfonie Singuliere)
10.00 Musical Encounters, with Fiona Talkington. Includes Trad (Bulgar Cigany); Bartok (Romanian Folk Dances); Strauss (Alphorn); Haydn (Symphony No 59 in A, Fire); Ney Rosaura (*Marimba Concerto*); *Oskar Merikanto* (Myrskyintu); Tippett (Concerto for Double String Orchestra); Brahms (Horn Trio in E flat, Op 40)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Franz Lehar
1.00pm News; Birmingham Lunchtime Concert. Priya Mitchell, violin, Andrew West, piano. Debussy (Violin Sonata); Prokofiev (Five Melodies); Chausson (*Poème*)
2.00 Midweek Choice, with Susan Sharpe. Call 0171-765 4308 by lunchtime to hear your request on air. Includes Dvořák, compl Burghauser (Cello Concerto in A minor); Zelenka (Memento Domine); Janacek (*Folk Nocturnes*)
4.00 Choral Evensong. Live from Southwell Minster in Nottinghamshire. Rector chori, Paul Hale, and assistant organist, Philip Rushforth. Includes John Rushby-Smith (Canticles: The Southwell Service)
5.00 The Music Machine. Tommy Pearson visits the Bhavan Centre in West London, to find out about *the classical Indian dance styles of Kathak and* Bharantanatyam
5.15 In Tune, with Andrew Green. Includes Fauré (*Impromptu No 2 in F minor, Op 31*); Dvořák (Silent Woods); Boyce (Trio Sonata No 5 in D); Wolf (*Auf eine Wanderung*)
7.30 BBC National Orchestra of Wales, under Mark Wigglesworth. With Catrin Wyn-Davies, soprano, Della Jones, mezzo, Robert Tear, tenor, Gwynne Howell, bass. Philharmonia Chorus. John Pickard (*The Flight of Icarus*); Beethoven (Symphony No 9 in D minor, Choral)
9.00 Conversations with Charles Rosen. Ivan Hewitt talks to the pianist about his best known book, *The Classical Style* (3/5)
9.25 Brahms Songs. Two sets of lieder sung by the baritone Christopher Maltman. With Ursula Smith, cello, and Graeme McNaught, piano. Brahms (Four Serious Songs, Op 121; Two Songs, Op 91)
10.00 Ensemble. Penny Gore introduces a recital by the Lyric Quartet. Haydn (String Quartet in D minor, Op 76 No 2); Kodaly (String Quartet No 2)
10.45 Night Waves. Humphrey Carpenter examines ways of writing about other cultures in a programme recorded at the Birmingham Readers' and Writers' Festival
11.30 Composer of the Week: Sibelius (r)
12.30am Jazz Notes, with Richard Niles. Includes the BBC Big Band under Barry Forgie performing the music of Oliver Nelson
1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod. Includes **1.00** Berlin Philharmonic, Tamas Daroczy, tenor, Alexandru Agache, baritone, Hungarian Radio and Television Chorus, under Georg Solti **2.00** Ars Nova, under Bo Holten, performs music from the early Baroque including works by Dowland and Mogens Pederson **3.00** Schools **5.00** Sequence

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** *Prayer for the Day* **6.30** Today, includes Thought for the Day **8.40** A Moment's Liberty (3/3) **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Midweek. Last of the current series with *Times* columnist Libby Purves
10.00 News; Survivors: James's Story (FM). See Choice
10.00 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW)
10.30 Woman's Hour, with Jenni Murray. Includes the serial *Close Relations*, by Deborah Moggach and read by Jan Francis (8/12)
11.30 Gardeners' Question Time, with Nigel Colborn, Pippa Greenwood and Anne Swithinbank. Eric Robson is in the chair (r)
12.00 News; You and Yours, with Lesley Riddoch
12.25pm The Oldest Member. Maurice Denham stars as the doyen of Prior's Heath Golf Club in stories by P.G. Wodehouse. With Joe Dunlop, Glynis Brooks and Stephen Kemble (2/6) **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; The Hydro. Ronald Frame's comedy drama set in a luxury hotel in the Scottish Highlands. With Eliza Langland, David Rintoul and Sheila Donald (3/4)
2.45 Treasure Islands, with Michael Rosen. The author Jacqueline Wilson lines up books for youngsters who do not or will not read
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Daire Brehan and guests
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Gambaccini sees this year's Oscar-winning documentary about the life of Mohammed Ali and a musical stage version of *Beauty and the Beast*
4.45 Short Story: Brother's Keeper, by Melissa Murray. Read by Christopher Scott
5.00 PM, with Chris Lowe and Nigel Wrench
5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 *Brain of Britain.* The nationwide general knowledge quiz reaches the Midlands and East Anglia (r)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Face the Facts. A new series of programmes in which John Waite and his team of investigators follow up listeners' complaints
7.45 20/20 A View of the Century. See Choice
8.30 Your Place or Mine? Eight documentaries made through collaborations between programme-makers from four countries. The first, from British Columbia, tells the unusual story of a rapist who, months later, apologises to his victim
9.00 Costing the Earth. In the last in the current series of the environmental magazine programme Mark Whittaker visits Hong Kong
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Isabel Hilton
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Grass is Singing, by Doris Lessing. Read by Janet Suzman (3/10)
11.00 Elvis 2 Oasis (FM). This week's guests for the lighthearted music discussion programme are Annabel Giles, Johnny Vaughan and Richard Vranch. Steve Punt is in the chair
11.00 Today in Parliament (LW)
11.30 Kathmandu or Bust: The Truck Stops Here. The fourth episode of David Napthine and Mike Yeaman's six-part comedy. The travellers get lost in Uzbekistan (r)
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Behind the Scenes at the Museum. Kate Atkinson's award-winning novel, read by Patricia Hodge (8/10) (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.35am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by **Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.**

Regions to be cheerful, or at least impressed

REVIEW

Matthew Bond

In the absence of Michael Barratt, I did the honours myself: "Time to go... *Nationwide*," and hummed the theme tune as best I could remember. It's a curious habit, I know, but one I find myself engaged in more and more often these days as broadcasters rediscover what Bob Wellings, Stuart Hall, Donny MacLeod et al always knew: that the best stories are in the regions and the very best of them deserve a larger audience. ITV has *3D*, BBC1 *Here and Now* and last night it was the turn of BBC2 to come up with two regional offerings of its own. Over to you, Sue.

Actually, the only disappointment about **Bloom or Bust? Revamping Laura Ashley** (BBC2) was that it wasn't presented by Sue Lawley. Its narration was delivered by Sandi Toksvig, who struck the perfect half-jokey, half deadly serious *Nationwide* tone, but somehow gave the firm impression of never having been much of a Laura Ashley girl herself.

It's amazing how evocative that image remains. As Sir Bernard Ashley put it (a touch disloyally, I thought): "Laura had the whole world dressed as milkmaids. I don't know how she did it but I know you couldn't do it today." Finding out what the company *can* do today, 12 years after the death of its founder, is the lot of Anne Iverson, an American company doctor.

Now hang on, I hear you all saying in Wales, we've seen this a couple of months ago. Indeed you had, but since that screening the story has moved on. A few weeks ago, Laura Ashley admitted it was overstocked and watched its share price go into reverse. Overnight, what was already a good film, became a good, timely and somewhat amended film.

What was impressive, however, was how little amendment Christina Macaulay's film required. Although Iverson's happy-clappy management style (the chief beneficiary of which is the male finance director who gets to dance with 300 women at sales meetings) made great television, there was always a healthy note of qualification. Did the conservative shoppers of Shrewsbury, for instance, know something the optimistic market researchers did not? "The new collection here is always a bit slow to get off," reported a doubtful sounding manager.

Much of Laura Ashley's senior management is now North American, a fact which prompted me to let out a little cheer when we encountered our first home-bred Jemima. It also provided Macaulay with a rewarding contrast with the company's straight-talking workforce in mid-Wales, a workforce that was quickly under threat when the new management took over — until somebody costed the alternatives in Eastern Europe and the Far East and discovered that Wales was surprisingly cost-effective. Over to you, Michael.

I mean, over to you Prince Michael, sir. Prince Michael of Kent, I suspect, would never have quite made the grade as a *Nationwide* presenter. "Could you relax a little, sir?" an anguished floor manager would ask. "Dash it man, I am relaxed. This is what princes look like when they're relaxed."

As a rule, I am against members of the royal family making documentaries about previous members of the royal family. It smacks of a sort of royal closed shop: "We may not be very good at broadcasting but we've got the archives and the access." So, I wasn't much looking forward to **Victoria and Albert** (ITV). But gradually, probably too gradually for many, it turned out better than expected.

Like all royal documentary-makers, Prince Michael had no immediately newsworthy point to justify an hour of television. What he embarked on instead was a gentle rehabilitation of his forebear, Prince Albert, whose contributions to constitutional and social reform, and to the arts and sciences, have been rather neglected.

Bits of history lesson — some remembered, some not — fairly rattled past as the Prince got into his stride: the Kensington system, the Bedchamber Plot, Chartists, the Great Exhibition. Initially, I hoped Prince Michael might make the contrast between Prince Albert's heroic endeavours and those of current royals who find themselves similarly faced with "no job and no proper role".

But protocol dictated otherwise and, anyway, it was more fun doing it for ourselves. The young Queen Victoria sobbed and cried when her beloved Lord Melbourne, the Prime Minister, came to resign. Somehow, I can't imagine many royal tears were shed over more recent departures.

Finally, over to Julia Booth, who normally works for Radio York but whose film, *Deadly Inheritance* — already shown in the Yorkshire area — provided a powerful opening contribution to **Home Ground** (BBC2), a new series giving regional documentaries a wider audience. This was the terrifically positive story, told first-hand, of a woman facing a dreadful choice — whether to have her two healthy breasts surgically removed or to do nothing and face a genetically determined, 85-90 per cent chance of developing breast cancer.

Actually, for Julia that was the easy part ("it's never really felt like a choice") the problem was what sort of reconstructive surgery she should have afterwards — if any. We were there as she received all manner of conflicting medical advice; we were there when she found a surgeon whose aim was that she would pass "the tennis club shower test" and we were there when — oh happy day — the operation delivered just about everything the surgeon had promised. Was there anyone for tennis? There was indeed.

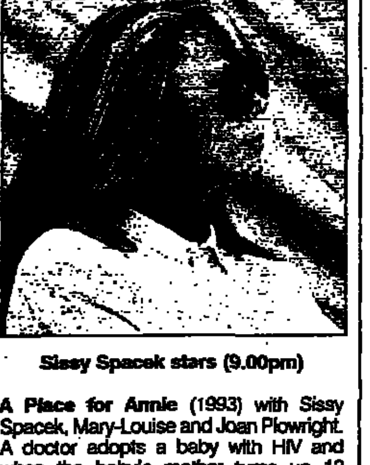
BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (11627)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (16085)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (T) (3097820)
9.20 Style Challenge (6548337)
9.45 Kilroy (7893085)
10.30 Country Walks to Curious Places Stourhead, Wiltshire (8636153)
10.40 The State Opening of Parliament Vivian White discusses the traditional ceremony with Betty Boothroyd. The procession is followed from Buckingham Palace to the House of Lords, where the Queen will deliver her speech (4822337)
12.00 News (T) and weather (8264801)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (8919207)
12.35 Going for a Song (9350207)
1.00 News (T) and weather (19172)
1.30 Regional News (86687820)
1.40 The Weather Show (99863207)
1.45 Neighbours (T) (40783849)
2.10 Quincy (r) (6515511)
2.55 Through the Keyhole (6281004)
3.20 Skepper on Style The transformation of a derelict rural house into a traditional country cottage (6325375)
3.30 Playdays (8144375) **3.50** Monster Cafe (6665269) **4.05** The New Yogi Bear Show (5595269) **4.15** Gadget Boy (4036578) **4.35** Out of Tune (1256375) **5.00** Newsround (T) (4414207) **5.10** Blue Peter (T) (6283733)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (992801)
6.00 News (T) and weather (131646)
6.25 Regional News (226288)
6.50 **Antiques Roadshow** Hugh Scully investigates the art of war (T) (468337)
7.20 Sportnight: The European Cup Winners' Cup Final — Barcelona v Paris St Germain Desmond Lynam introduces live coverage from Rotterdam, where Bobby Robson's Barcelona take on the defending champions. Continues after the Lottery (407375)
8.20 The National Lottery Live Damage perform their new single, *Forever*, and Carol Smillie has good news for Britain's parks (T) (153808)
8.30 Sportnight: The European Cup Winners' Cup Final Live coverage of the second-half (21733)
9.30 News (T) Regional News and weather (99733)
10.00 They Think It's All Over Nick Hancock presides over teams captained by David Gower and Gary Lineker, supported by comedians Rory McGrath and Lee Hurst with guests Julian Clary and Matthew Pinsent (T) (50356)
10.30 **Race for the Title** Review of the race for the FA Premiership title and the equally exciting struggle between teams trying to stay among the elite. *Plus, reflections on a season lit up by the overseas stars who now grace* English football (23808)
11.30 FILM **Telefon** (1977) Russian agent Charles Bronson sets out on the trail of a defector who plans to trigger an army of hypnotised saboteurs throughout the USA. Also With Lee Remick, Donald Pleasence and Tyne Daly. Directed by Don Siegel (677676)
1.10am Weather (4681283)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

6.00am Open University: Going with the Flow (8363375) **6.25** Computers in Conversation (8342882) **6.50** Velocity Diagrams (8833795) **7.15** News (3725085) **7.30** Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (8947337) **7.55** Activ-8 (r) (1037795) **8.20** Philbert the Frog (3046066) **8.25** The Adventures of Buzzy Bee and Friends (6250646) **8.35** The Raccoons (3138269) **9.00** Discovering *Portuguese (6559443)* **9.25** *Ballet File* (3081269) **9.45** Words and Pictures (7475627) **10.00** Teletubbies (78337) **10.30** Numbertime (6658375) **10.45** Cats' Eyes (6646530) **11.00** Moving to English (6501085) **11.20** The Art (5283172) **11.40** Study Ireland (4287443) **12.00** The Shape of the World (57269) **12.30pm** Working Lunch (77511) **1.00** The Geography Collection (22235882) **1.25** Zig Zag (70491795) **1.45** Come Outside (86671269) **2.00** Philbert the Frog (30959172) **2.05** The Adventures of Buzzy Bee and Friends (30958443) **2.10** The Phil Silvers Show (r) (b/w) (40963191) **2.35** Westminster with Nick Ross (T) (4268462) **4.00** Blockbusters (5485424) **4.25** Ready, Steady, Cook (5488511) **4.55** Esther (9423849) **5.25** Today's the Day (6260882) **5.55** Turning Points (851998)
6.00 Star Trek: the Next Generation (r) (T) (753646)
6.45 Space Precinct Concluding the 2-part story (T) (985578)
7.30 Black Britain Rianna Scipio looks at archaeological looting currently taking place in parts of Africa (T) (135)
8.00 University Challenge Exeter College, Oxford, take on The Open University (T) (3240)
8.30 Home Front Anne McKevitt on ways to brighten up a conservatory. Mark and *Andrea with help from the experts* transform the bathroom at Mill Cottage (T) (2375)



Sissy Spacek stars (9.00pm)

9.00 FILM **A Place for Annie** (1993) with Sissy Spacek, Mary-Louise and Joan Plowright. A doctor adopts a baby with HIV and when the baby's mother turns up 12 months later to claim her, invites her to move in. Directed by John Gray (2356)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (230153)
11.15 Ruby Ms Wax chats to Marianne Faithfull, Will Self and Lucinda Lambton (565511)
12.00 The Midnight Hour (51009)
***12.30am Learning Zone: Open University:* Rocky Shores: Life on the Edge** (21370) **1.00** Tropical Forest: The Conundrum of Co-Existence (35134) **1.30** Managing for Biodiversity: Forests in Trinidad (41283) **2.00** Science Zone (28592) **4.00** English Heritage (87660) **4.30** Unicef in the Classroom (23399) **5.00** Basic Skills: Making the Curriculum Work (92931) **5.30-5.59** Voluntary Matters (52738)

HTV

6.00am GMTV (4657578)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (6556356)
9.55 Regional News (3974191)
10.00 The Time, the Place (98191)
10.30 This Morning (62893462)
12.20pm Regional News (8260085)
12.30 News (T) and weather (9346004)
12.55 Shortland Street (9321795) **1.24** HTV Crimestoppers (85966714) **1.25** Home and Away (T) (70402801) **1.50** Afternoon Live (40759882) **2.20** Vanessa (T) (40947153) **2.50** Afternoon Live (2866733)
3.20 News (6329191)
3.25 Regional News (6328462)
3.30 Alphabet Castle (r) (6689849) **3.40** Tots TV (r) (7200356) **3.50** Oscar and Friends (r) (5496530) **3.55** Sooty and Co (r) (8132530) **4.20** Tiny Toon Adventures (T) *(7591714)* **4.40** *Harry's Mad (r)* (T) (9414191)
5.10 Bagdad Cafe (r) (7909917)
5.40 News (T) and weather (175207)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (126714)
6.25 HTV Weather (465240)
6.30 The West Tonight (T) (627)
7.00 Emmerdale Biff and Linda visit a clinic for a counselling session (T) (1646)
7.30 Coronation Street Natalie wants answers from Kevin. Meanwhile, things don't go exactly to plan in the Rovers raffle (T) (511)

Sean Bean as Sharpe (8.00pm)

8.00 **Sharpe: Sharpe's Justice** Back on English soil after his recent escapades in France, Sharpe is assigned to command a militia garrison in the North (T) (2/3) Followed by National Lottery Result (6207)
10.00 News at Ten (T) and weather (45424)
10.30 Regional News (T) (654849)
10.40 Western Lights: Laugh Until You Die In the first of three dramas from the West, two worlds collide with tragic consequences (517714)
11.15 FILM **Repossessed** (1990) Spoof of the *Exorcist* starring Linda Blair, Ned Beatty and Leslie Nielsen. Directed by Bob Logan (275801)
12.40am Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (9665405)
1.10 Real Stories of the Highway Patrol (4327931)
1.35 FILM **Deadly Game** (1982) starring Mel Ferrer, Barbara Sukowa and Helmut Berger. Drama about a romantic entanglement between old flames that results in a murderous plan. Directed by Karoly Makk (539931)
3.10 Jones and Jury (r) (49323080)
3.35 Not Fade Away (r) (3101844)
4.35 The Time, the Place (r) (72960009)
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (96757)
5.30 News (72592)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (9321795)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7909917)
6.25-7.00 Central News (260511)
10.40-11.40 Central Sports Special (705882)
11.40 Hunter (671646)
12.40am Dating the Enemy (4218196)
1.40 Bonkers (5174080)
2.45 The Chart Show (3613221)
3.30 Comedy Central (24912)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.55pm Home and Away (8160240)
1.20-1.50 Emmerdale (22248356)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7909917)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (89356)
10.30 Westcountry News (638801)
10.45 Richard Digance: For One Night Only (472563)
11.45 Swift Justice (921153)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (9321795)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7909917)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (375)
6.30-7.00 Meridian Focus (627)
10.45 The Road Show (651511)
11.15 The Bottom Line (658242)
11.45 Swift Justice (921153)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (9321795)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7909917)
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (260511)
10.40 Midweek Kick-Off! (8646424)
12.10am Alfred Hitchcock Presents (2693912)

S4C

Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (47527)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (50545)
9.00 Bewitched (55801)
9.30 Ysgolion (654511)
12.00 House to House (42337)
12.30pm Ricki Lake (30787)
1.00 Slot Meithrin (20572676)
1.15 Lisabeth (39027581)
1.30 Waterways (59838)
2.00 Racing from York (2240)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (240)
4.30 Mrs Cohen's Money (424)
5.00 5 Pump *(8149559)*
5.15 Ffeil (4486424)
5.30 Countdown (284)
6.00 Newyddion (101530)
6.05 Heno (137820)
6.35 Sion a Sian (472530)
7.00 Pobol y Cwm (863153)
7.25 Ffermio (305578)
8.00 Elinor (5608)
8.30 Newyddion (7443)
9.00 Spin City (6795)
9.30 Roseanne (82443)
10.00 Brookside (546066)
10.35 ER (723288)
11.30 Caroline in the City (92917)
12.00 Alf, Bill and Fred (1415486)
12.05am Under the Moon (41310080)
4.00 Ysgolion (9174196)

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (r) (47527) **7.00** The Big Breakfast (50545) **9.00** Bewitched (r) (T) (55801)
9.30 Schools: Geography Junction **9.45** Book Box **10.00** Stage Two Science **10.15** TV: Friend or Foe? **10.45** GNVQ — Is It For You **11.07** Lost Animals **11.15** The Mix **11.30** Rat-A-Tat-Tat **11.45** Backtracks (654511)
12.00 House to House (42337) **12.30pm** Light Lunch. Cookery, chat (76795) **1.30** Waterways (T) (59838)
2.00 Racing from York Brough Scott introduces a four-race card. Includes **3.10** Grosvenor Casinos Dante Stakes and **3.40** Grosvenor Casinos Hamilton Stakes (2240)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (240) **4.30** Countdown (T) (424) **5.00** Ricki Lake (T) (9424) **5.30** Pet Rescue (T) (284)
6.00 Party of Five *Bailey disrupts Owen's* birthday party when he arrives drunk and tries to fill the role of the hired clown (T) (739066)
6.50 Fresh Pop A musical guest introduces a video (998288)
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) and weather (764172)
7.50 Rhyme and Reason (T) (384356)
8.00 Brookside As Max plays happy families, Susannah feels more and more isolated. David becomes concerned by Leanne's activities at Bar Brookie (T) (5608)

Actor Robert Pastorelli (8.30pm)

8.30 CHOICE ***Planet Showbiz*** *(3/8) Mark* Lamarr meets the enigmatic pop star Beck, finds out about Eric Stoltz's new film, *Anaconda*, and talks to Robert Pastorelli about the American *Cracker* (T) (7443)
9.00 Melissa (3/5) Guy quits as a journalist and starts drinking heavily. Meanwhile, Melissa secretly sees a gynaecologist but more worringly receives threats about her past. With Tim Dutton and Jennifer Ehle (T) (5026527)
10.05 ER: Calling Dr Hathaway Hathaway gets her medical school admission test results and Dr Carter ignores a serious misteke made by another intern (T) (669356)
11.05 Friends: The One Where Eddie Won't Go Chandler has problems trying to get rid of his weird flatmate (r) (T) (656743)
11.35 Roseanne Dan decides to act promptly when he hears another man express *affection for Roseanne (T) (658581)*
12.05am Under the Moon Late night sports show hosted by Danny Kelly featuring NBA XXL at **2.30** (41310080)
4.00 Schools: The English Programme (9174196)
4.50 Sheriff Street Kids How pigeon-racing unites children from a tough Dublin street (r) (T) (72963196) **5.20** Backdate (r) (T) (9864592)

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz

6.00 am 5 News Early *(8760207)* ***7.30*** Havakazoo (5515627) **8.00** Adventures of the Bush Patrol (8465849) **8.30** Wideworld (8457820)
9.00 Espresso (2495172) **10.00** Exclusive (r) (7072085) **10.30** Fame and Fortune (r) (8444356)
11.00 Leeza (9111356) **11.50** Double Espresso (34412646) **12.00** The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (8435608) **12.30** Family Affairs (r) (T) (4547627)
1.00 5 News Update (49863646) **1.05** Sunset Beach (T) (3524269)

Presenter Esther McVey (2.00pm)

2.00 5's Company *Live entertainment* (7046998)
3.30 FILM **A Time To Triumph** (1986) with Patty Duke, Joseph Bologna and Julie Bovasso. Poignant drama about a woman who joins the army to solve her family's financial problems after her husband suffers a heart attack. Directed by Noel Black (3386240)
5.20 5's Company: Late Extra (35301269)
5.30 100 Per Cent (9217849)
6.00 Whittle (T) (9207462)
6.30 Family Affairs Melanie embarrasses Holly (T) (9298714)
7.00 Exclusive News from the world of entertainment (2548895)
7.30 Animal Omens: Decievers Documentary about moths and their defence of their fragile lives against a host of enemies (T) (9294998)
8.00 The Great Garden Game Paul Hawkins presents another battle from the opulent grounds of Newby Hall in Ripon, Yorkshire where the contestants are challenged to tidy up the edge of the lawn at the front of the house (T) (4211153)
8.30 5 News (1261838)
9.00 FILM **Her Hidden Truth** (1995) with Kellie Martin, Antonio Sabato Jr and Reed Diamond. A woman goes in search of her parents' killers, a crime for which she was falsely incarcerated. Directed by Dan Lerner (99727199)
10.40 Exclusive Extra (5862563)
11.00 The Jack Docherty Show (5860424)
11.40 Tibs and Fibs Medical quiz presented by Tony Slattery (5271733)
12.10 Live and Dangerous Includes, at **1.00**, baseball from the American Major League (63638561)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (4102825)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (2450009)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday**

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (342743) **9.00** Regis and Kathie Lee (81998) **10.00** Another World (40066) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (53530) **12.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (36288) **1.00pm** Geraldo (12608) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (26998) **3.00** Jenny Jones (45462) **4.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (31269) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (1545) **6.00** Real TV (8085) **6.30** Married — with Children (7337) **7.00** The Simpsons (1424) **7.30** M*A*S*H (6849) **8.00** Beverly Hills 90210 (84849) **9.00** Melrose Place (64085) **10.00** Silk Stalkings (67172) **11.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (41795) **12.00** America's Dumbest Criminals (24979) **12.30am** L.A.P.D. (78202) **1.00** Hit Mix Long Play (9165221)

SKY 2

7.00pm Superboy (3247714) **7.30** Superboy (3034356) **8.00** Renegade (7265714) **9.00** New York Undercover (7286578) **10.00** Water Rats (7256337) **11.00** Late Show with David Letterman (4199801) **12.00** Hit Mix (4356202)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

8.30am Esther and the King (1960) (91608) **8.30 Medicine River** (1993) (90153) **10.30 *Phase IV*** **(1973)** (59795) **12.00 Season of Change** (1994) (481424) **1.35pm Red** (1986) (70583559) **3.30 Rustler's Rhapsody** (1985) (77882) **5.00 Downhill Racer** (1969) (12884191) **6.55 I Love Trouble** (1994) (38318462) **9.00 Funny Bones** (1995) (53285733) **11.10 Delta of Venus** (1994) (265530) **1.00am The Kremlin Letter** (1970) (88979) **3.00 HEALTH** (1979) (277660) **4.40 Phase IV** (1973) (174552)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.15am The Son of Robin Hood (1958) (5999285) **7.40 Bedtime Story** (1941) (1239559) **9.10 Jim's Girl** (1994) (4753743) **10.50 The Command** (1954) (4545474) **12.25pm Little Miss Millions** (1992) (183530) **2.00 Major League II** (1994) (58068) **4.00 Jim's Gift** (1994) (3259) **6.00 Midnight Runaround** (1994) (99917) **7.30 El News Week in Review** (9559) **8.00 Tremors** (1990) (71375) **10.00 Under Siege 2: Dark Territory** (1995) (203530) **11.45 Mrs Parker and the Vicious Circle** (1994) (79657801) **1.50am No-One Could Protect Her** (1995) (444399) **3.25 Shattered Dreams** (1990) (544844) **5.00 The Care Bears Movie II: A *New Generation (1986)*** *(2657573)*

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00pm Monkey Business (1952) (5940375) **8.00 Gator** (1976) (2978153) **10.00 To Live and Die in LA** (1985) (4079998) **12.00 House of Games** (1987) (8435863) **1.45am Performance** (1970) (6323844) **3.35-5.15 Broken Lance** (1954) (2844776)

TNT

9.00pm On the Town (1949) (37418714) **11.00 The Dirty Dozen** (1967) (76535608) **1.30am The Asphalt Jungle** (1950) (50458486) **3.30-5.00 The Asphyx** (1972) (93521009)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (10849) **7.30** Wrestling: Live Wire (26240) **8.30** Racing News (23849) **9.00** Sports Centre (32171) **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style (43191) **10.00** NBA Basketball (30627) **12.00** Aerobics Oz Style (94337) **12.30pm** Tartan Extra (76998) **2.00** Under-18 Football: England v Portugal (64172) **3.00** World Pool Masters (67608) **4.00** The Footballers' Football Show *(79443)* **4.59** *Sports Centre (5418998)* **5.00** Wrestling: Shotgun Challenge (1207) **6.00** Sports Centre (4269) **6.30** Full Throttle (8849) **7.00** The Pavilion End (45135) **7.59** Sports Centre (550337) **8.00** World of Super League with Eddie and Stevo (26849) **10.00** Sports Centre (95066) **10.30** Golf Extra (26820) **12.30am** Sports Centre (23776) **1.00-2.00** The Pavilion End (97196)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Golf (9506578) **1.00pm** Golf Extra (6266817) **2.00** Australian Rules Football (6567085) **3.00** Beach Volleyball [illegible] **4.00** Ten Women [illegible] **5.30** Futbol Mundial [illegible] **7.00** Live Football League Play-Off Semi-Final: Wolverhampton Wanderers v Crystal Palace (75118548) **11.11.30** Motorcycling: Full Throttle (6681004)

EUROSPORT

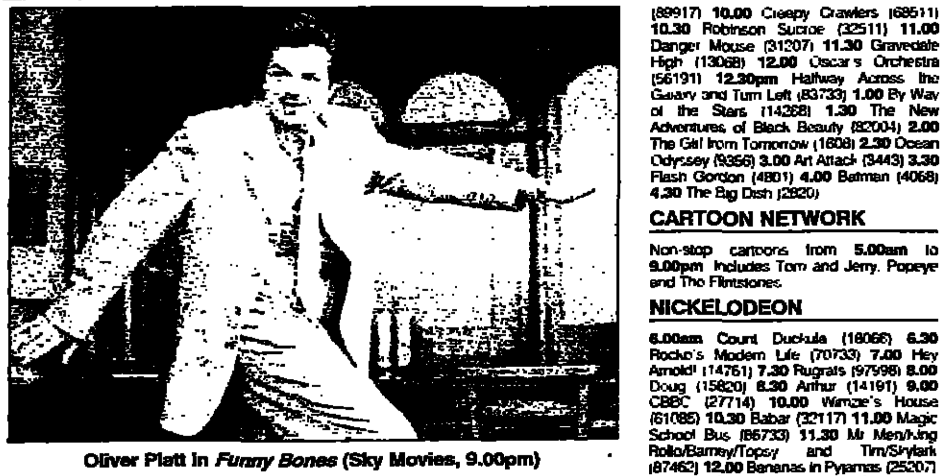
7.30am Equestrianism (28608) **8.30** Drag Racing (18917) **9.00** Ice Hockey (75288) **11.00** Motorcycling (80559) **11.30** Motocross (81288) **12.00** Karting (28882) **1.00pm** Basketball (84248) **1.30** Freeride (48646) **2.00** Live Tennis (4098172) **6.00** Rally (9337) **6.30** Touring Car (54191) **7.30** Live Tennis (490375) **10.00** Boxing (80424) **11.00** Women's Golf (81337) **12.00-*12.30am Rally (57221)***

UK GOLD

7.00am Tellystack (8145801) **7.35** Neighbours (6546424) **8.00** Crossroads (8256337) **8.25** EastEnders (4724462) **9.00** The Bill (7133269) **9.30** Don't Wait Up (4363801) **10.00** Robin's Nest (4210172) **10.30** The Sullivans (7122153) **11.00** Casualty (55125153) **12.05pm** Crossroads (86984917) **12.30** Neighbours (4374917) **1.00** EastEnders (8931849) **1.35** On the Up (8789462) **2.10** A Little Bit of Dawson (61543795) **2.15** Sorry! (2191608) **2.50** 'Allo, 'Allo! (3941240) **3.30** The Bill (3268608) **4.00** Boon (3770207) **5.00** Larry Grayson's Generation Game (63392356) **6.05** EastEnders (7352174) **6.40** Sykes (5062288) **7.20** Russ Abbot (9785240) **7.55** Rising Damp (7522917) **8.25** In Sickness and in Health (6718240) **9.00** The Bill (3769191) **9.30** The Paradise Club (47038801) **10.35** Sports Anorak of the Year (7135269) **11.10** Hazell (4552714) **12.10am** The Equalizer (8252825) **1.00** Callen (4024196) **2.00** Shopping (1403863)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Box (4485578) **7.00** Classic Coronation Street (6395511) **7.30** Families (6314646) **8.00** Surprise, Surprise (1427820) **9.00** The Professionals (7443849) **10.00** Richard and Judy Exclusive (9361443) **10.30** Doctor on the Go (9729375) **11.00** Within These Walls (6390066) **12.00** Classic Coronation Street (9710627) **12.30pm** Families (4557707) **1.00** Crown Court (6394882) **1.30** The Good Life Guide (5907248) **2.00** A Family at War (9362172) **3.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (9559714) **4.00** Surprise, Surprise [illegible]



Oliver Platt in *Funny Bones* (Sky Movies, 9.00pm)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Mouse Tracks (6099085) **6.25** Quack Attack (6001820) **6.50** Bonkers (5604590) **7.15** Little Mermaid (6196838) **7.40** Aladdin (4183191) **8.05** Quack Pack (2373646) **8.30** Goof Troop (49801) **9.00** Care Bears (4355269) **9.25** Pooh Corner (4367004) **9.50** Muppet Babies (3265240) **10.15** Grounding Marsh (5324040) **10.40** Sing Me a Story (1061288) **11.05** Mouse *and Mole (2560998)* **11.10** *Big Garage* (4170207) **11.25** Lamb Chop (3638559) **11.55** Fraggle Rock (8339608) **12.20pm** Timon and Pumbaa (7616240) **12.50** Boy Meets World (9879288) **1.05** Timon and Pumbaa (68935443) **1.15** Mouse Tracks (631894) **1.45** Aladdin (60155530) **2.10** Goof Troop (24230578) **2.35** Bonkers (9789066) **3.00** Quack Attack (6515356) **3.25** Timon and Pumbaa (2377998) **3.35** Little Mermaid (8358646) **4.00** Timon and Pumbaa (5223998) **4.10** Goof Troop [illegible]

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Three Little Ghosts (9306085) **6.30** Inspector Gadget (9618191) **7.00** Samurai Pizza Cats (4180153) **7.30** Alien Rangers (4109288) **8.00** Beetleborgs (2367795) **8.30** Crocadoo (2366066) **9.00** Bimbas Island (2380646) **9.30** The Magic Box (1439288) **9.45** Dudley the Dragon (3085627) **10.15** Bimbas Island (8503462) **10.30** The Magic Box (2379530) **11.00** Jin *Jin and the Panda Patrol (6532424)* **11.30** Pinocchio (6533153) **12.00** Inspector Gadget (2360882) **12.30pm** VR Troopers (10771530) **12.45** Alien Rangers (8235240) **1.15** Beetleborgs (93982085) **1.30** Eekl Stravaganza (4114998) **2.00** Life with Louie (3243998) **2.30** Crocadoo (3046191) **3.00** Gadget Boy (3255733) **3.30** Eekl Stravaganza (3025608) **4.00** Life with Louie (3037443) **4.30** Alien Rangers (3033627) **5.00** Beetleborgs (3267578) **5.30** Spider-man (3057207) **6.00** X Men (3047820) **6.30-7.00** Goosebumps (3038172)

(89917) **10.00** Creepy Crawlers (68511) **10.30** Robinson Sucroe (32511) **11.00** Danger Mouse (31207) **11.30** Gravedale High (13068) **12.00** Oscar's Orchestra (56191) **12.30pm** Halfway Across the Galaxy and Turn Left (83733) **1.00** By Way of the Stars (14268) **1.30** The New Adventures of Black Beauty (82004) **2.00** The Girl from Tomorrow (1608) **2.30** Ocean Odyssey (9356) **3.00** Art Attack (3443) **3.30** Flash Gordon (4801) **4.00** Batman (4068) **4.30** The Big Dish (2820)

CARTOON NETWORK

Non-stop cartoons from **5.00am** to **9.00pm**. Includes Tom and Jerry, Popeye and The Flintstones

NICKELODEON

6.00am Count Duckula (18066) **6.30** Rocko's Modern Life (70733) **7.00** Hey Arnold! (14761) **7.30** Rugrats (97998) **8.00** Doug (15820) **8.30** Arthur (14191) **9.00** CBBC (27714) **10.00** Wimzie's House (61085) **10.30** Babar (32117) **11.00** Magic School Bus (86733) **11.30** Mr Men/King Rollo/Barney/Topsy and Tim/Skylark (87462) **12.00** Bananas in Pyjamas (25207) **12.30pm** Little Bear Stories (52849) **1.00** CBBC (40004) **2.00** The Wubbulous World of Dr Seuss (9462) **2.30** Kissyfur (4882) **3.00** Alvin and the Chipmunks (5269) **3.30** Bruno the Kid (6627) **4.00** Jumanji (8462) **4.30** Rugrats (4646) **5.00** Sister Sister (8694) **5.30** Moesha (5998) **6.00** Press Gang (5511) **6.30-7.00** Doug (9191)

TROUBLE

12.00 Heartbreak High (4371820) **1.00pm** Madison (8154004) **1.30** Sweet Valley High (4368356) **2.00** Hangtime (4669627) **2.30** California Dreams (3289559) **3.00** Byker Grove (4671462) **3.30** Blast (3284004) **4.00** Sweet Valley High (3263511) **4.30** Hangtime (3269795) **5.00** Saved by the Bell (4683207) **5.30** California Dreams (3283375) **6.00** Byker Grove (3280288) **6.30** Madison (3264240) **7.00-8.00** Heartbreak High (8451191)

BRAVO

8.00pm The New Twilight Zone (4572191) **8.30** Monsters (3761559) **9.00** [illegible] **10.00** Tour of Duty [illegible] **11.00** FILM: The Evil That Men Do [illegible] **1.00** FILM: Turkish Delight [illegible] **3.00** The New Twilight Zone (8801950)

TCC

6.00am Road to Avonlea (40191) **7.00** Dennis the Menace (97172) **8.00** Batman (32207) **9.00** Flash Gordon (43627) **9.30** Bobby's World

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Roseanne (8839) **7.30** Roseanne (5375) **8.00** Entertainment UK (6998) **8.30** Almost Perfect (8733) **9.00** Cheers (73269) **9.30** Cybill (32085) **10.00** Frasier (93608) **10.30** Monty Python's Flying Circus (82676) **11.00** Comedy Store (78714) **11.30** Nightstand (75511) **12.30am** Sledgehammer (21318) **1.00** Cheers (87134) **1.30** Cybill (93283) **2.00** Entertainment UK (15080) **2.30** Comedy Store (34116) **3.00** Frasier (67370) **3.30-4.00** Almost Perfect (25467)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

8.00pm The Guyver (3659545) **8.30 FILM: Dune** (9520646) **11.00 FILM: Megazone 23** (5566849) **1.00am** The Twilight Zone (9891467) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (5513757) **2.00** Friday the 13th (6856080) **3.00-4.00** Dark Shadows (3537641)

HOME & LEISURE

9.00am The Joy of Painting (7124511) **9.30** Garden Calendar (4361443) **10.00** Screaming Reels (4218714) **10.30** Doing it Up (7120795) **11.00** The Painted House (3754269) **11.30** This Old House with Steve and Norm (3755998) **12.00** Yan Can Cook (7144375) **12.30pm** Graham Kerr (4372558) **1.00** Today's Gourmet (8167578) **1.30** Home Again with Bob Vila (4364530) **2.00** The Log Cabin (4655801) **2.30** Furniture to Go (3285733) **3.00** Our House (4651608) **3.30-4.00** This Old House with Steve and Norm (3297578)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm High Five (3276085) **4.30** Driving Passions (3272269) **5.00** Time Travellers (4656153) **5.30** Justice Files (3296849) **6.00** Wild at Heart (3286462) **6.30** The Global Family (3277714) **7.00** Beyond 2000 (4676917) **7.30** Disaster (3273998) **8.00** Unexplained: Arthur C Clarke's World of Strange Powers (4652337) **8.30** Unexplained: The Quest (4664172) **9.00** Hitler's Henchmen (8460849) **10.00** Weapons of the Gods (8430608) **11.00** Submarines: Sharks of Steel (8144627) **12.00** Wings of the Red Star (8605776) **1.00am** Disaster (5405414) **1.30-2.00** Beyond 2000 (2591660)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Weapons at War (5038337) **5.00** The Moguls (8009269) **6.00** Mirror Europe (3409337) **7.00-8.00** Biography: John Paul II (1736820)

CHALLENGE TV

Win with **Prize Time** twice an hour
5.05pm Cross Wits (9833462) **5.50** Family Fortunes (878882) **6.20** Family Days Out (445511) **6.30** Catchphrase (731820) **7.05** Winner Takes All (693356) **7.40** Give Us A Clue (863288) **8.20** All Clued Up (723356) **9.00** Through the Keyhole (394086) **9.25** InnQuizition (499191) **9.35** Sale of the Century (907795) **10.05** Treasure Hunt (498820) **11.20** Studs (247608) **12.00** Winner Takes All (75641) **12.30am** Hart to Hart (44028) **1.30** Moonlighting (69673) **2.30** Jake and the Kid (15835) **3.30** My Two Dads (63641) **4.00** The Fall Guy (86738) **5.00** Shopping (17842)

UK LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living (5731337) **9.00** Gladrags and Glamour (7684530) **9.15** Gordon Elliott (7132443) **10.05** Jerry Springer (7293630) **11.00** Young and the Restless (7300462) **11.50** Brookside (9524172) **12.25pm** Why Me? (19624443) **12.55** Tempest (6492248) **1.40** Rolonda (6805207) **2.30** Agony Experience (7901269) **3.00** Live at Three (92926917) **4.05** Jerry Springer (4471443) **5.05** Lingo (44766424) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (7905085) **6.00** I Dream of Jeannie (9860066) **6.35** Ready, Steady, Cook (9547608) **7.05** Hearts Afire (4173559) **7.35** Brookside (6765627) **8.05** Rolonda (8506820) **9.00** **FILM: For the Love of a Child** (2975066) **11.00-12.00** Sex Zone (2965269)

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran **7.30** Zabaan Sambhal Ke **8.00** Gaane Anjaane **8.30** A Question of Cricket **9.00** Balikar Prem **9.30** Abhimein **10.00** Tara **11.00** Low Cal **11.30** Dance Mania **12.00** Daraar **12.30pm** Raahat **1.00** **FILM** **4.00** ZEE Zone **4.05** Public Demand **5.00** Zone Time **5.25** Alif Laila **6.00** Campus **6.30** ZEE and You **7.00** Kamal Kombination **7.30** Banegi Apni Baat **8.00** News **8.35** Dastaan **9.05** Awards Hi Awards **10.00** Film Cheat **10.30** Purush Kshetra **11.30-12.00** Zee Horror

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FOOTBALL 41

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WEDNESDAY MAY 14 1997

Personality clash ends 24-year link

Player power puts Best out at Harlequins

By David Hands, rugby correspondent

RICHARD BEST'S 24-year association with Harlequins, one of English rugby union's most glamorous clubs, came to a bitter conclusion yesterday. Best, the former England coach who has been director of rugby at the Stoop Memorial Ground for the past two years, was dismissed as a result of pressure from leading players at the club.

Few casualties in the sport's first full season of professionalism will reverberate louder than this, not merely because Best and Harlequins have been synonymous for so long but because there are indications that the players have thrown down a gauntlet to the club's administrators, which they should simply not have been in a position to do.

"Dick Best's position as director of rugby has been terminated by the club as a result of differences over its playing policies," a Harlequins statement said obliquely. "The club acknowledges Dick's great contribution to its success over many years. Dick will remain as a consultant to the club on playing matters."

The main accusation levelled at Best was that his management style was a bar to progress and to a contented, effective squad. Yet, this season, Best's approach is said to have mellowed and Harlequins came third in the Courage Clubs' Championship, reached the semi-finals of the Pilkington Cup and qualified for the Heineken Cup.

Few coaches in Britain offer the qualifications which Best, who joined them as a player from Hendon in 1973, has been able to employ on Harlequins' behalf: as an amateur he helped them to two Pilkington Cups before stepping onto the England ladder, coaching the national under-21 side and then the senior side in 1992. He was assistant coach to the 1993 British Lions in New Zealand but, in 1994, was controversially dismissed by England after Jack Rowell became the team manager.

Best: unable to comment

His approach has many of the characteristics of a regimental sergeant-major and it is possible that the constant exposure that professionalism has brought to his sharper observations contributed to the tensions that led to yesterday's decision. "We believe a breath of fresh air is needed at this point," one player said.

But the main point at issue is that the Harlequins directors knew precisely what they were getting for their money, and had such faith in Best that they offered him what was, in sporting terms, a long-term contract. If now they have been faced with an ultimatum from a group of players saying, in effect, that either they go or Best goes, then their own management ability must be called into question.

Such has been the speed of events that Best had to clear out his desk only a few days after returning from a recruitment visit to France. His influence had already attracted three internationals from that country — Laurent Cabannes, Laurent Benezech and Thierry Lacroix — to the Stoop and he had also helped to set in train development schedules for young home-bred players.

Will Carling, the former England captain, who exerts considerable influence at Harlequins, said last week that there was dissatisfaction among players, though yesterday one of his colleagues said that Carling was no more than one member of a substantial group. But whether Carling, who announced his retirement from international rugby last month, has been a moving spirit in Best's departure or not, the Harlequins board will pay heavily to fill the void.

No coach worth his salt can tolerate a situation in which his employment depends upon the opinion of the players and it remains to be seen whether Andy Keast, Best's protégé who worked in Natal and returns to South Africa with the Lions on Sunday, will remain as head of the club's coaching panel.

It is likely that Best will take time to reflect on his situation before considering further offers of work. Under the terms of his settlement, he declined to comment but ambitious clubs in this country, as well as further afield, will be interested in his availability.

Bath (John Hall and Brian Ashton), London Irish (Clive Woodward), Orrell (Peter Williams), Sale (Brian Wilkinson) and West Hartlepool (Mark Ring) have all parted company, under differing circumstances, with directors of rugby or coaches this season while Saracens have changed Mark Evans's job description to accommodate Francois Pienaar as player-coach.

Injury forces Clohessy to miss Lions tour

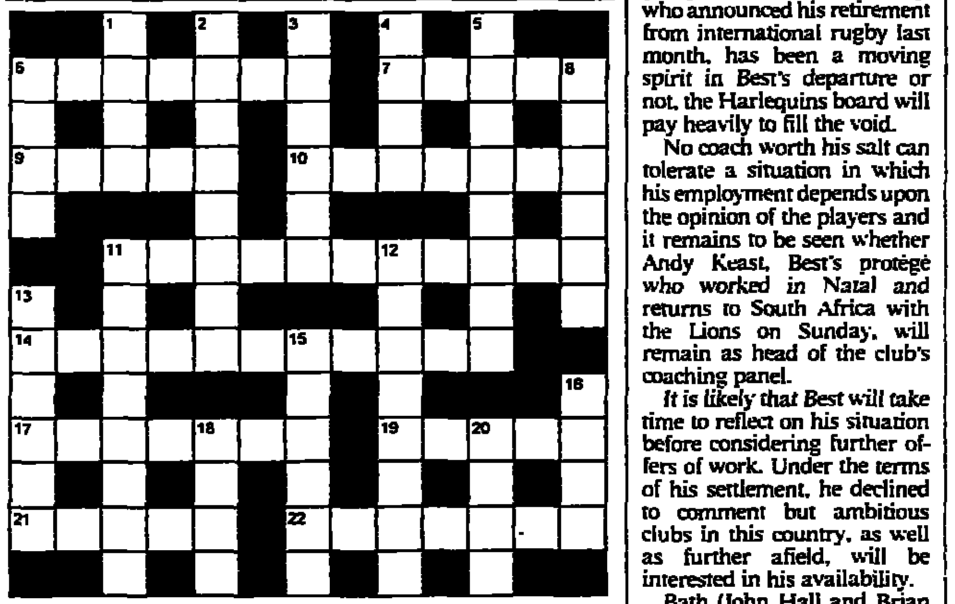
PETER CLOHESSY became the first casualty of the British Isles and Ireland tour to South Africa yesterday, 24 hours after the party assembled at Weybridge to prepare for departure on Saturday evening (David Hands writes). The Ireland tighthead prop has a back injury and his place will be taken by Paul Wallace, of Saracens.

Clohessy, 31, was a surprise selection insofar as he has been playing his rugby in Queensland, having served a suspension last year for foul play imposed by the Irish Rugby Football Union, who also terminated his contract. A month ago he hurt his back in the Super 12 tournament but received medical clearance in Australia to tour with the Lions.

However, when the players trained at London Irish yesterday Clohessy's discomfort became evident.

England, who leave for Argentina on Sunday, also suffered further disruption to their tour party when Garath Archer, the Newcastle lock, pulled out with a neck injury, becoming the third lock — after Martin Bayfield and John Fowler — to withdraw.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1093

ACROSS
- 6 Flaw; stain (7)
- 7 Distant, disdainful (5)
- 9 Part of teapot; make speech (*colloq.*) (5)
- 10 JRR —, *Lord of the Rings* author (7)
- 11 Accept uncorroborated (4,2,5)
- 14 Argue protestingly (11)
- 17 Made of fired clay (7)
- 19 Boat Race crew (5)
- 21 Burner; smashed (in) (5)
- 22 Format of worship (7)

DOWN
- 1 Protest march (4)
- 2 In error (8)
- 3 Poor immigrant quarter (6)
- 4 Cry piteously (4)
- 5 Seclusion (8)
- 6 Lie in sun (4)
- 8 Having limits (6)
- 11 "— and — and —" (*Macbeth*) (2-6)
- 12 Farcical parody (8)
- 13 Summary of text (6)
- 15 Gear; deal with (problem) (6)
- 16 Remain; restrain (4)
- 18 Docile (4)
- 20 Young woman (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1092

ACROSS: 1 Vacant 5 Dose 8 Zola 9 Tearaway 10 Dissolve 11 Poet 12 Threat 14 Hangar 16 Whip 18 Tom Thumb 20 Damocles 21 Runt 22 Sect 23 Casual

DOWN: 2 Abolish 3 Amass 4 Tittle-tattle 5 Deadpan 6 Scare 7 Face the music 13 Exploit 15 Armenia 17 Heave 19 Horus

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 1088
In association with BRITISH MIDLAND

ACROSS: 1 Macabre 5 Slit 9 Merit 10 Bravura 11 Time and again 12 Vilify 13 Myriad 16 Happy-go-lucky 19 Chimera 20 Atone 21 Even 22 Tangent

DOWN: 1 Mime 2 Cordial 3 Butterfly net 4 Ebbing 6 Laura 7 Trained 8 Pay-as-you-earn 12 Vehicle 14 Irksome 15 Hobart 17 Prime 18 Vent

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All flights subject to availability.

PAUL HANNA

Tim Henman, the Great Britain No 1, found the going hard during his first match since an elbow operation in March at the Italian Open tennis tournament in Rome yesterday, moving through to the second round when Roberto Carretero, of Spain, retired with a thigh muscle injury with the score standing at 4-6, 7-5, 2-0 in Henman's favour. Carretero, a clay-court specialist, drew first blood when he broke Henman's service in the seventh game of the opening set, but Henman saved three match points at 4-5 down before taking the second set. Henman will now meet one of two Italian qualifiers, Davide Scala or Daniele Musa, in the second round — a match he should win.

Sampras beaten, page 42

Collymore comes home for a new start

By David Maddock

THE sullen features that became almost a fixture at Anfield were gone. Instead, Stan Collymore wore a fixed, almost gleeful smile as he signed on at Aston Villa.

The centre forward completed a £7 million move from Liverpool yesterday, when he agreed a four-year contract with the Midlands club he supported as a boy from the Holte End. His contract, including a signing-on fee, will be worth more than £3 million if Villa generate sufficient win bonuses.

The smile was a reflection of Collymore's excitement at what he believes is a "new start". His troubles at Anfield have been well documented, but the 26-year-old preferred not to dwell on them. "There is no point going back over my time at Liverpool, what matters is that I am here at Villa and this is an exciting time to come to the club," he said.

"I don't regard myself as a failure at Anfield. My partnership with Robbie Fowler over the two years was very productive and, even though I was in and out of the team, I scored my share of goals. I left because I couldn't get a regular place, and because Villa is the team I have always supported. When I was a boy they won the European Cup, and it seems to me that things are about to take off here again."

Some people question the wisdom of Brian Little, the Villa manager, in spending a club record fee on a player best described as "difficult". Little believes, however, that he can get the best out of Collymore.

"With forwards I often look at them and see a bit of myself in them," he said. "I look back on when I was younger and wish someone had sat down and talked with me and helped me a bit more. I look at experiences from my own life and hope it will help me bring the best out of players like this one."

Internazionale yesterday made what appears to be a final attempt to persuade Paul Ince, the England international, to remain with the club for another two seasons. The midfield player was offered a new contract worth more than £1 million a year.

Ince, however, seems certain to turn it down because his wife is set on a return to England this summer. Liverpool remain favourites to secure Ince's signature.

Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, last night hinted that Gianluca Vialli, the Italian striker, would stay at the club. "I would not like to anticipate what the manager decides for next season," Bates said, "but as far as we are concerned, he has got a three-year contract."

Collymore: gleeful smile

Palace play on memories

By Russell Kempson

ANDY ROBERTS, the Crystal Palace defender, winces when recalling the 2-1 defeat against Leicester City in the first division play-off final last season, when Steve Claridge scored in the final minute of extra time to inflict widespread misery on London SE25. Leicester went on to win the Coca-Cola Cup, and earn respectability in the FA Carling Premiership, while Palace were consigned to another term in the Football League.

A year on, Palace are only a step away from returning to Wembley. They play Wolverhampton Wanderers this evening, in the second leg of their semi-final play-off, and hold a 3-1 lead from Selhurst Park on Saturday. Even amid Molineux's intense, intimidating atmosphere, they will start as favourites.

"Losing last year was terrible, especially the way it happened," Roberts, who scored the opening goal of that game, said. "I felt like a lost soul afterwards, I'll never forget it. Hopefully, we will have learnt from that experience, even though we're still a very young side, and it should stand us in good stead."

Wolves will pin most of their hopes, as usual, on Steve Bull, their prolific striker, who is only five goals short of his 300th in club football. "We kept him fairly quiet," Roberts said. "We'll probably have to do the same again if we're going to get through."

Ipswich Town have home advantage against Sheffield United in the other semi-final and, after a 1-1 draw at Bramall Lane at the weekend, will be confident of progressing further.

George Burley, the Ipswich Town manager, played at Wembley in 1978 as a member of the club's FA Cup-winning side against Arsenal.

In the second division play-offs, Brentford defend a 2-1 lead against Bristol City at Griffin Park, while Luton Town have a similar deficit to make up when they play Crewe Alexandra at Kenilworth Road. In the third division, police forces along the M4 corridor will breathe a sigh of relief if either Swansea City or Cardiff City, or both, bow out in the semi-finals.

Cardiff are 1-0 down, with an away leg at Northampton Town to come, while Swansea are level with Chester City, at 0-0, before their return meeting at the Vetch Field. Yet such is the antipathy of the rival Welsh supporters towards each other, with away fans having been banned from recent league fixtures between the clubs, that a possible meeting at Wembley has raised fears of public disorder at the stadium and on the routes leading to London.

Barcelona's test 41
Midweek View 46

Fox makes running for record deal

THE Los Angeles Dodgers baseball team is expected to change hands for a record fee after confirmation yesterday by Peter O'Malley, its owner, that he is involved in negotiations with the Fox Group.

"We're in the fifth month of what we expected to be a six-month process," O'Malley, whose family has controlled the Dodgers since 1950, said in a statement. The club will reportedly cost Fox, a subsidiary of The News Corporation, the parent company of *The Times*, between $350 and $400 million (£215-£250 million). Such figures far exceed the $172 million Peter Angelos paid for the Baltimore Orioles in 1993. "We're in negotiations," Vince Wladika, a Fox spokesman, confirmed, saying the network would not comment further at this stage.

The Dodgers come with the 300-acre site near downtown Los Angeles where Dodger Stadium is located, a 468-acre spring training facility in Vero Beach, Florida, and some property in the Dominican Republic.

The Dodgers have been for sale since January, when O'Malley announced he intended to sell the club his family moved to Los Angeles from Brooklyn after the 1957 season. The sale of the National League club to Fox, which is the primary broadcaster of baseball in the United States, must be approved by the owners of the other Major League clubs.

O'Malley told the *Los Angeles Times* that if he had been able to build an American football stadium near Dodger Stadium he might not have put the Dodgers up for sale.

"I can't deny that was a factor," he was quoted as saying. "I must tell you I was extremely disappointed when we were asked to shelve our ideas." Last summer the city council voted to build a new stadium at the Los Angeles Coliseum rather than on land owned by the Dodgers.

Fox would join a number of media companies that own teams. Time Warner controls the Atlanta Braves, the Tribune Company has the Chicago Cubs and Walt Disney has the Mighty Ducks ice hockey franchise and the Anaheim Angels basketball team.

Business, page 29

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THE TIMES
People & property
WEDNESDAY MAY 14 1997

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Welcome to the sensitive home

Intelligent, green houses are around the corner. Stephen Hoare reports

Calling home unexpectedly? Your house senses your arrival and turns on the heating. Hungry? Luckily, the fridge has ordered some extra yoghurt. Perhaps you have a companion? Your control panel understands: with one touch, the lights dim and the sitting room plays soft music.

In the garden the soil is too dry for your roses, so the sprinkler turns itself on, using filtered water stored from yesterday's bath. This house, after all, is sensitive both to you and to the environment. Its linked computers make it highly energy-efficient.

Pie in the sky? Not any more: technology has improved to the point where the sensitive home will soon be bricks and mortar. Its principles will become increasingly important as Britain's large housing deficit is tackled.

At the moment our homes are full of electronic appliances that are not communicating with each other. Domestic heating systems, burglar alarms, televisions, hi-fis, video recorders and telephones all have microchips. Link these systems and machines into a network, make the chips compatible and your home will both cosset you and lower the size of your bills. That's the theory.

Yesterday the theory came a little nearer reality with the launch of the Integer Project — a study sponsored by Berkeley Homes and Northern Rock Building Society. Integer, short for intelligent and green, aims to provide a blueprint for tomorrow's home. Next year Berkeley Homes plans to build at least 200 affordable houses based on the findings.

> 'Link these systems and your home will cosset you and lower your bills'

Twelve housing associations and local authorities have committed support and are looking to commission "Integer" homes. Other research partners include the Government's Building Research Establishment, the engineering design consultant Oscar Faber and the European Intelligent Buildings Group.

Integer is the brainchild of an architect, Nicholas Thompson of Cole, Thompson Associates, based in Barnes, southwest London. "Technology is emerging from different ends of the spectrum and will eventually converge," he says. "We are bringing together research and development from appliance manufacturers, utilities, telecoms, television and cable companies."

"In the past there have been too many examples of innovative housing designs that have been shunned by the mortgage companies as too risky or too avant garde," says Alan Kell, of the European Intelligent Buildings Group. "We wanted to ensure that lenders understood what we were doing."

For the sensitive house in the diagram, our artist has collected state-of-the-art intelligent systems from around the world. He has plumped for a heat-retaining timber-frame building, suitable for mass-market construction and improved by a new quality code.

True, he has allowed himself a few luxuries not strictly essential to a green lifestyle: remote speakers, for example. But the drawing contains many features that the Integer researchers will be examining: remote metering; a wall panel that monitors fuel consumption; "grey" water recycling; a security and fire alarm linked to heating and lighting circuits; and an energy management system.

Deborah Broadhurst, technical director of the Basingstoke and Upper Test Housing Association, one of Integer's partners, says: "We want to keep running costs as low as possible for our tenants and we are prepared to pay £1,000 to £2,000 more for something specific like solar panels, where we can see there is a payback. The idea is to come up with something not too sophisticated that can be built by any competent developer."

The sensitive, or intelligent, home is likely to come with cabling and trunking built in and ready wired. Its control systems must be user-friendly — a computer in the home is not everyone's idea of heaven. "Technology succeeds when it disappears," Mr Kell says. "An intelligent home works for you, rather than making you feel it has taken you over."

The heart of the home will be a control panel — really a central computer to which all systems and appliances are linked. This could be based on the telephone, television, a multimedia personal computer, the central heating panel or even an energy meter.

The control panel's touch-screen controls will allow anything electronic in the house to be set, or observed. It could also send and receive data. This opens the way to interactive television services such as home shopping, home banking and video on demand.

Other housebuilders are close on the heels of Integer. Martin Stamp, the design director for Wimpey Homes, says: "We are working with home automation companies and we are looking to carry out field trials within the next 12 to 18 months."

Future Wimpey homes could include telephone-based home shopping and home banking systems, security systems and remote metering — all selling points. But Wimpey will be looking to simplify existing controls rather than add complication.

Some experts point to the deregulation of energy supply as the driving force behind intelligent homes. "The gas, electricity and water supply companies will find they cannot compete on price alone," says Barry Haaser, marketing director for Echelon, an American software manufacturer. "They will need to offer consumers value-added services such as energy monitoring or services for the disabled."

Perhaps the gas, water and electricity companies would pay for your control panel if you agreed to be metered remotely. Your bank would pay your bills automatically but you could tell at a touch how much power or water you were using, and how much you owed.

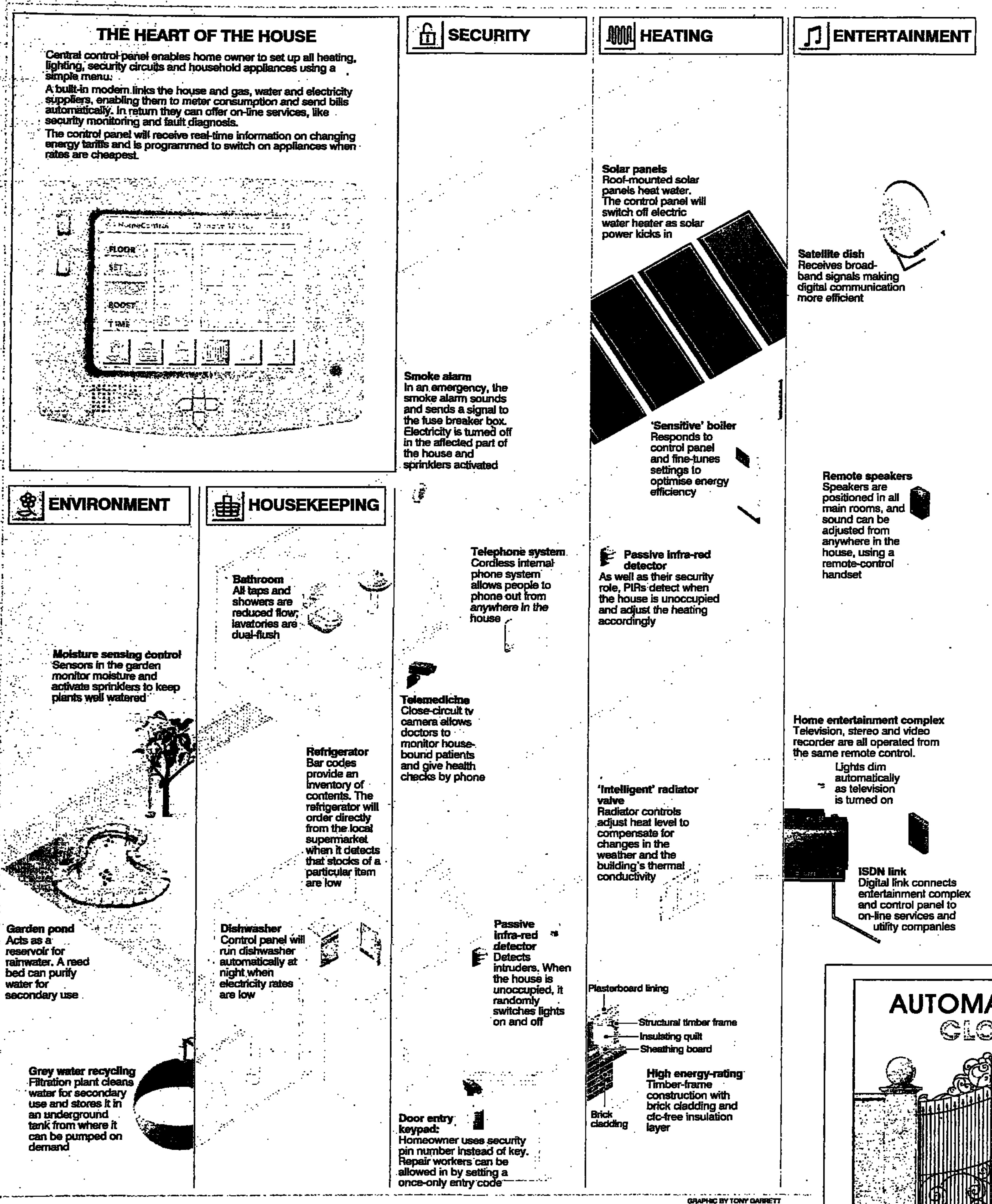
The utilities companies are already on the case. Anglian Water is looking at the possibilities of grey water recycling. The electricity supplier Scottish Hydro is testing remote metering in Perth — using Echelon software. The company also says it is experimenting with value-added services, but will not reveal what they are.

All the signs are, then, that the sensitive home is genuinely around the corner. We really are going to have electronic wall-mounted notepads flashing up phone or Internet messages that have arrived while we've been out. We really are going to buy security systems with passive infra-red sensors that automatically switch on the boiler if there are people at home outside pre-programmed hours.

"The housing market has got some of its old confidence back," Mr Kell says, "and this is encouraging builders, developers and housing associations to be more progressive in their thinking.

"By investing a little more up front they can provide buyers with better performance over time. And we want homebuyers to want intelligent houses — to be confident that they're a good investment. No one wants to live in an experimental home."

● *Integer: 0181-876 7553.*



Central control panel enables home owner to set up all heating, lighting, security circuits and household appliances using a simple menu.

A built-in modem links the house and gas, water and electricity suppliers, enabling them to meter consumption and send bills automatically. In return they can offer on-line services, like security monitoring and fault diagnosis.

The control panel will receive real-time information on changing energy tariffs and is programmed to switch on appliances when rates are cheapest.

Smoke alarm In an emergency, the smoke alarm sounds and sends a signal to the fuse breaker box. Electricity is turned off in the affected part of the house and sprinklers activated

Telephone system Cordless internal phone system allows people to phone out from *anywhere in the* house

Telemedicine Close-circuit tv camera allows doctors to monitor house-bound patients and give health checks by phone

Passive infra-red detector Detects intruders. When the house is unoccupied, it randomly switches lights on and off

Door entry keypad: Homeowner uses security pin number instead of key. Repair workers can be allowed in by setting a once-only entry code

Solar panels Roof-mounted solar panels heat water. The control panel will switch off electric water heater as solar power kicks in

'Sensitive' boiler Responds to control panel and fine-tunes settings to optimise energy efficiency

Passive infra-red detector As well as their security role, PIRs detect when the house is unoccupied and adjust the heating accordingly

'Intelligent' radiator valve Radiator controls adjust heat level to compensate for changes in the weather and the building's thermal conductivity

High energy-rating Timber-frame construction with brick cladding and cfc-free insulation layer

Satellite dish Receives broad-band signals making digital communication more efficient

Remote speakers Speakers are positioned in all main rooms, and sound can be adjusted from anywhere in the house, using a remote-control handset

Home entertainment complex Television, stereo and video recorder are all operated from the same remote control.

Lights dim automatically as television is turned on

ISDN link Digital link connects entertainment complex and control panel to on-line services and utility companies

Moisture sensing control Sensors in the garden monitor moisture and activate sprinklers to keep plants well watered

Garden pond Acts as a reservoir for rainwater. A reed bed can purify water for secondary use

Grey water recycling Filtration plant cleans water for secondary use and stores it in an underground tank from where it can be pumped on demand

Bathroom All taps and showers are reduced flow; lavatories are dual-flush

Refrigerator Bar codes provide an inventory of contents. The refrigerator will order directly from the local supermarket when it detects that stocks of a particular item are low

Dishwasher Control panel will run dishwasher automatically at night when electricity rates are low

GRAPHIC BY TONY GARRETT

HOMES OF THE FUTURE

TECHNOLOGY costs will fall as the concept of intelligent homes is taken up by volume housebuilders. So far, developments in home automation have filtered down from technology used in control systems for commercial office blocks, or have come from the luxury end of the market, where sophisticated home entertainment and security systems are now the norm.

Berkeley Homes has built a handful of intelligent homes at the top end of the market where a £1.5 million-plus price tag will get you an array of electronic extras such as a home entertainment and security system controlled by key pads in each room.

Electronics manufacturers like Philips, Thorn-EMI and Electrolux are developing intelligent products for home automation. In America, Honeywell produces TotalHome — a centralised microprocessor control system which will effectively operate your home by remote control. John Hamblin, Honeywell's business development manager, says: "You just dial up your home from a mobile phone and have the oven switch your dinner on."

Honeywell claims to have developed the first intelligent domestic heating controller, the AQ6000, which uses a microprocessor to adapt the temperature setting on the boiler. Sensors on radiators fine-tune the heat.

At Dr Sue Roaf's experimental Oxford Eco House, a computer monitors energy consumption and balances the use of solar energy and central heating from a gas condensing boiler. Solar panels heat the water and photovoltaic cells generate electricity. The house has triple glazing and a high thermal mass — retaining heat in winter and remaining cool in summer.

SHAKERS & MOVERS

Home for Hamlet

■ FRANCESCA ANNIS and Ralph Fiennes, fresh from his triumph in *The English Patient*, have reportedly moved into a rented home together in Fulham, west London. The couple, who met in *Hamlet*, have also kept separate homes and according to her father Miss Annis has a new house in Kensington which she is renovating.

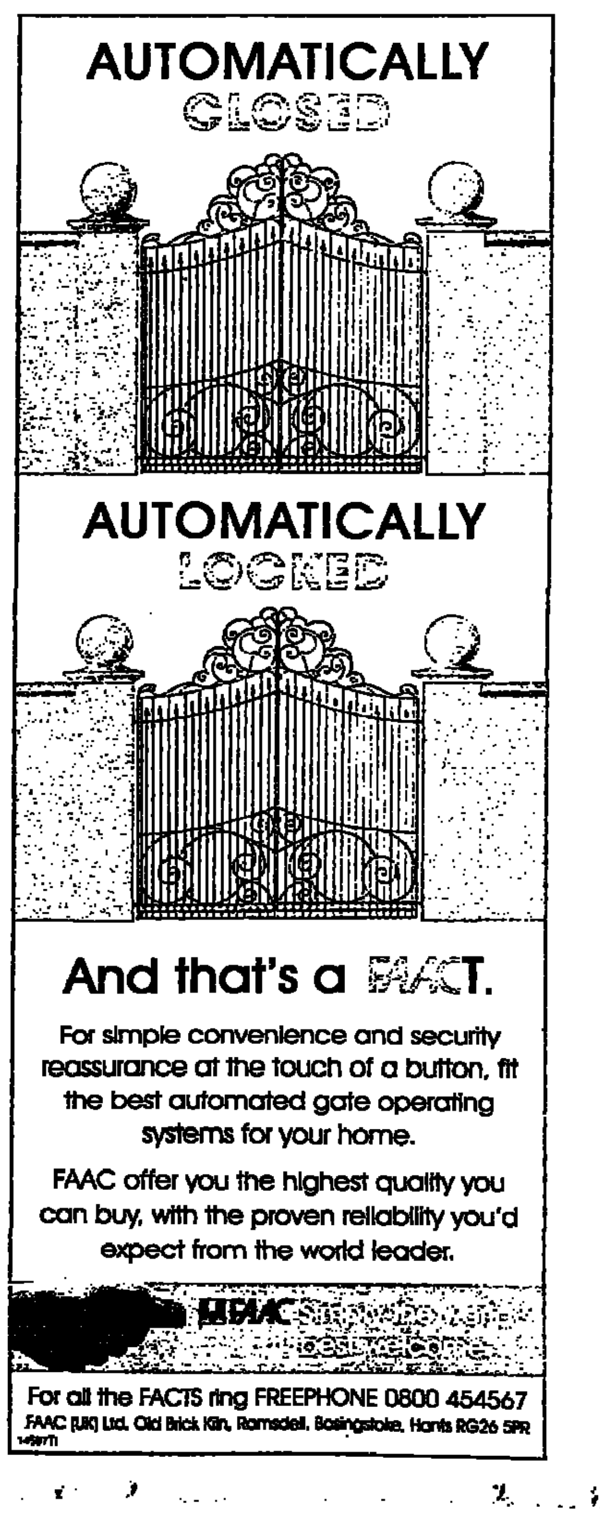
■ EILEAN RIGH, Ardfern, Argyll, an island of about 237 acres lying just off the west coast of Scotland, is being offered for sale by Earl Waldegrave, brother of the deposed Conservative Treasury minister, William. It is on the market for offers over £500,000 through the Edinburgh office of Knight Frank. "Kings Island", as it is sometimes known, lies in Loch Craignish, a sheltered sea loch, and has its own floating jetty, making landing possible at all times.

Style move

■ CHESTERTONS Residential is selling a flat in Montagu Square, W1, owned by Peter York, the style-guru who invented the Sloane Ranger. The flat, over 2,000 square feet, has two French marble fireplaces and overlooks the square. The leasehold is available through the Hyde Park office for £575,000.

■ GURTHALOUGHA HOUSE in County Tipperary, a country house hotel, is on the market for £550,000. The owners are founder members of the "Hidden Ireland" organisation — a collection of country houses around Ireland that welcome paying guests. A number of Hollywood film stars have stayed at Gurthalougha, including Martin Sheen, Bill Murray and Cheryl Ladd.

■ THE HOUSE where television's first cooking couple, Fanny and Johnny Craddock, lived is for sale at £925,000. The Dower House near Watford has a 30-foot-long reception hall and the study where Fanny wrote her books is 250 square feet.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Beware the grey rush for retirement homes

Buyers seeking peace of mind should watch for high maintenance prices in this increasingly popular housing sector, reports **Sara McConnell**

The family home is *finally getting a bit much.* The maintenance bills on the *four-bedroom detached house* you raised your brood in are alarming. The garden is going to seed. The *cleaning* is exhausting. And the seclusion, behind high hedges and up a long drive, now makes you feel uneasy instead of being the attraction it once was.

The thought of exchanging this for a new, more manageable home, where the chores are taken care of by others and help can be summoned by pressing a bell, can be most tempting. Hundreds of developments of retirement homes are appearing all over the country, claiming to offer unobtrusive support to older homeowners who want to live in a safe environment without being forced to join sing-songs in the communal lounge.

Competition to buy retire*ment homes is fierce. Increasing* numbers of households are now headed by pensioners *who are living longer and* remaining healthy longer. The Department of the Environ*ment says nearly a third of* households will be headed by someone of pensionable age by 2016. Nearly a million more households will be headed by single pensioners. And these people want to buy, not rent. *The majority of older people* own their own homes and wish to continue to do so, according to Age Concern.

But developers complain that supply is being choked by high land prices and the apparent reluctance of local councils to grant planning permission. John McCarthy, chairman of McCarthy and Stone, which has 70 per cent of the retirement home market, says: "Two and a half years ago, it took 24 weeks to get planning permission. *Now it takes more than a year.* This means there is a shortage of retirement housing, particu*larly in the South East.* We could sell more."

Many developments now *have long waiting lists and* buyers are so keen they are signing themselves up before *their future home is even built.* Gary Hughes, marketing director of English Courtyard, which specialises in upmarket cottages and detached house developments, reports that ten of the 30 homes being built near Christ's Hospital in West Sussex have already been sold and another ten reserved, although building will not be finished until December.

What does the lease say about keeping pets and parking?

Continuing heavy demand is, of course, good news when you come to sell. It is a condition of retirement developments that you can only sell to someone over 55, which can cause problems in a housing slump.

But specialist retirement home advisers warn potential buyers not to get carried away *with the need for speed by* signing before they have checked carefully what they *are taking on.*

Before you buy, visit the development and meet the *warden and other residents,* advises Howard Packman of Sheltered Housing Services, a *specialist estate agent. If you* are 60 and everyone else is 90, or if you like keeping yourself to yourself but everyone else likes an evening knees-up, you could feel out of place.

Almost all retirement homes are leasehold rather than freehold. As with any other leasehold property this means you will have a landlord, normally the developer. They will have a managing agent who will be responsible for providing the services promised in your lease, which could include warden care, garden and exterior house maintenance and care of internal hallways and other communal areas.

They will also be responsible for making sure you keep to the rules in the lease. Many people who have always lived in freehold houses find it difficult to accustom themselves to being told they cannot keep pets or hang their washing in the garden or park *their car where they like. But* these are all common prohibitions in leases.

Rudi Reeves of Aims, the advisory service for retirement homeowners, says: "It is vital *to understand your lease.* What does it say about pets? Or parking? These may seem *small problems to your solicitor* but they aren't to you."

English Courtyard is planning a second phase at Mytchett Heath, Surrey after the first sold out within months

You will be expected to pay a *service charge to cover management, maintenance and* repairs. This varies depending *on the size* and location of your property. McCarthy and Stone, for example, charges nearly £900 a year minimum for a one-bedroom flat and up to £1,500 a year for a two-bedroom flat. This includes maintenance, warden, security systems, buildings insurance, heating and lighting. English Courtyard charges £2,500 a year for a two or three-bedroom property, which includes all the above and promises "complete peace of mind". Aims says the average across Britain is around £1,000 a year.

Complaints about high service charges topped the list of cases handled by Aims last year. Developers admit that charges frequently rise above of inflation. You will almost certainly not be protected from this by your lease but you should be able to take some control through the residents' association set up on most developments.

Under the code of practice of the Association of Retirement Homes Managers, the annual accounts must be inspected by the residents' association, which can challenge them if necessary. If you think you are paying for unnecessarily elaborate services, you can get them removed and the service charges reduced as long as a majority of the other residents agree with you.

● *Aims, 0171-383 2006; Sheltered Housing Services, 0181-997 9313*

What Labour's Budget will do to your mortgage payments

Anne Ashworth takes a look at what homebuyers can expect from the new Chancellor of the Exchequer

The first fortnight of the new government has left homebuyers reeling in surprise. Within days of the Labour victory, Gordon Brown, the new Chancellor of the Exchequer, had raised base rates by a quarter of a point. This announcement was swiftly followed by a rise in the cost of mortgages.

As banks and building societies increased their variable rate loans from 7.25 per cent to an average 7.60 per cent, rumours surfaced that mortgage interest relief (Miras) could be a target in Mr Brown's forthcoming first Budget. It is widely predicted that he will either end or reduce the relief which remains a pyschological incentive to home ownership, despite its much diminished value.

The abolition of the relief would put an extra £28.50 a month on homebuyers' bills but would raise a useful £2 billion for the Chancellor. At present, the relief is given at the rate of 15 per cent of tax on the first £30,000 of a loan.

However, it seems unlikely that Mr Brown would wish to alienate the ten million homebuyers who benefit from the concession. Some believe he might move instead to end relief on new loans, although Maurice Fitzpatrick, of Chantrey Vellacott, the London firm of accountants, takes issue with this view. He says: "Abolishing relief on new loans would raise very little money initially. It would take ten years before the measure started to make a significant contribution. It is more likely that Mr Brown will phase out the relief on all loans over a three-year period, reducing it first to 10 per cent, then to 5 per cent and then to zero."

Mr Brown's dislike of mortgage relief was shared by his Conservative predecessors who aspired to abolish the concession but faced resistance from Margaret Thatcher. Unable to kill off Miras, they had to be content with decreasing its value, allowing it to "wither on the vine". The £30,000 limit has remained unchanged since 1983.

Labour plans to curb gazumping, making it expensive to oust a buyer

The news of the mortgage rate increase, which adds £13.26 to the monthly bill of a borrower with the average £50,000 loan, has further boosted the popularity of fixed-rate mortgages. These now account for around half of new loans. Five-year fixed-rate loans are particularly popular, with some borrowers who are anxious to ensure that their repayments stay unchanged until the next election.

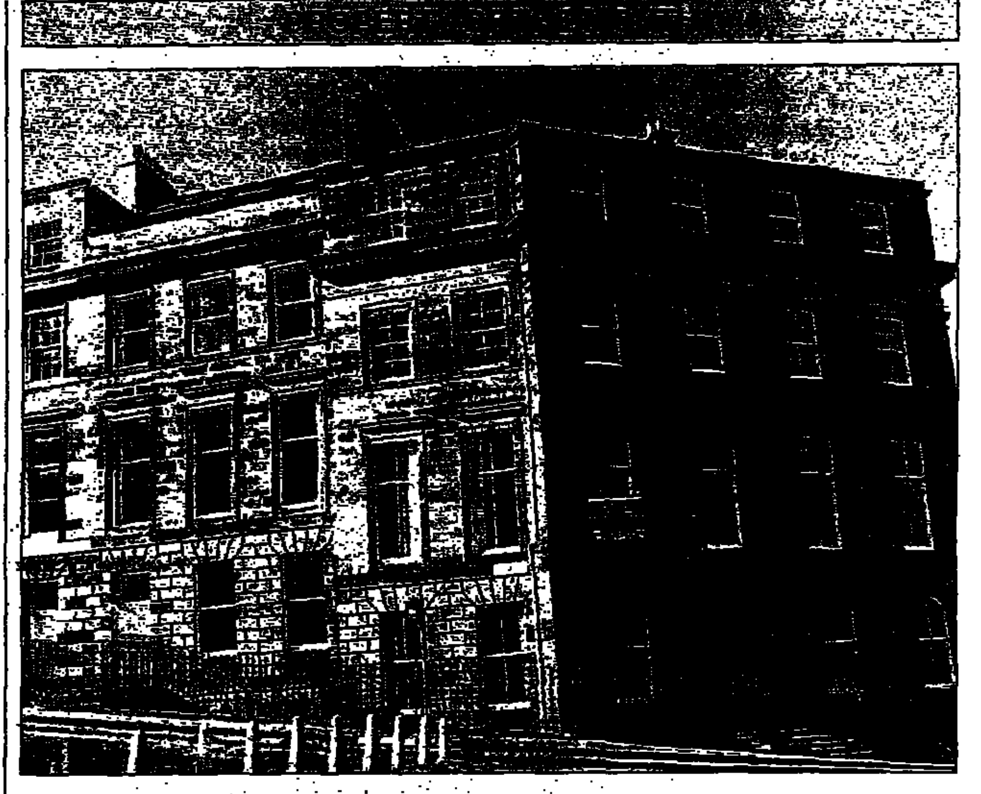
Shortly after the announcement of the rate increase, many lenders withdrew fixed-rate offers, replacing them with more expensive deals.

Patrick Bunton, of the Bath mortgage brokers London & Country, reports that customers are interested both in fixed rates and in capped rates.

"We are keen at the moment on the Bristol & West 7.25 per cent five-year fixed rate," he says. "You are not required to take out house and contents cover, which is now a condition of many other loans. You also pay the £295 arrangement fee, not upfront but at the completion of the loan. This means that you will pay this charge if you go ahead with the property purchase."

Like other mortgage brokers, London & Country is enthusiastic about capped rate loans, where your rate is guaranteed not to rise above a certain level for a fixed period. Besides being protected from rate rises, borrowers with capped rate loans benefit from rate decreases. The Stroud & Swindon Building Society is offering a three-year 7.49 per cent capped rate.

Some home owners may be thinking that the mortgage rate rise and the threat to mortgage relief imply that Labour has some antipathy towards home ownership. But this would not be true. Some economists believe that the decision to pass responsibility for interest rate policy over to the Bank of England could mean more rate stability in the future, which would be good news for borrowers. Labour also plans measures to curb gazumping, making it expensive for a seller to cold shoulder a buyer if a better offer comes along.



BRODIES is offering 11 Glenfinlas Street, Edinburgh, a complete Georgian townhouse with views to Charlotte Square, *Katherine Bergen writes*. Offers are invited over £200,000. There is also a basement flat, which is expected to exceed £80,000. Glenfinlas Street is a five-floor house which was until recently a lawyers' office. Planning permission has been granted for the property to be reinstated as a private house and it retains all its period features. It was built during the 1820s as part of the development by the Earl of Moray and designed by the architect James Gillespie Graham. Keys can be rented for the lovely woodland gardens of the Moray Estate and for the nearby Queen Street Gardens.

● *Brodies, Telephone 0131 228 4111, Fax 0131 228 3878*

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Would you rent out a room to one of these?

There could be £8,000 in it for you, says **Dixie Nicolls**

THIS is the time of year when students start looking for next year's accommodation. Renting to students is big *business and a lot more sophisticated* than it used to be with cards on notice boards giving way to Web sites.

The University of London Accommodation Office has up to 5,000 households on its database and e-mails its students with updates daily. It offers advice and issues guidelines. Leeds students have a trendy cyber-café where they can surf for accommodation. Landlords on the system are asked to sign up to a code of conduct. Leeds students can see *particulars* of everything on offer, 24 hours a day from anywhere in the world.

Landlords are keen to let to students because the returns are high. The average weekly rent paid by a student in shared private sector accommodation is £40.12. It accounts for 52 per cent of student income. The rest of us spend a paltry 16.6 per cent on accommodation.

Rod Horner, an estate agent who *runs GA's Kent and Sussex rental* department, says: "There are plenty of landlords who purchase properties *with the intention of letting to students* and will take all the baggage that goes with them in their stride."

Letting a house to students is likely to bring in a lot more money. A four-bedroom terraced house in Leeds, let to *a family, is likely to earn £450 a month* — which on a 48-week let means £4,950 a year, 10 per cent of which will be taken up *in agent's fees. Or it could be let to* five students, with the front room an additional bedroom, paying £37 a week each, on a 43-week let. The same house will earn £7,955 a year and the accommodation list fee is only £30.

Your tenant? Viv of *The Young Ones*

Martin Blakey, who runs Unipol, the charitable organisation that finds accommodation for students in Leeds and is a considerable landlord *in its own* right, says students are reliable. Out of a student rent roll of £1.7 million last *year, Unipol only wrote off £3,000 in* bad debts.

He concedes that students require *more management than other tenants.* "The tenancy turns over every year and you have to explain how appliances *and heating work. They are also bad at* reporting repairs, especially towards the end of their tenancy. They tend to *leave accommodation in need of a* spring clean."

Rental costs for sharers vary around *Britain. London is high* (£51 a week) but there is an extra £395 in grants and £390 in loans to soften the difference. *However, costs follow availability and* there are points worth considering when choosing where to study.

WHAT IT COSTS

THE regional average weekly costs per student for sharers in the private rental sector and for lodgings in private homes:

Region	Private	Lodgings
Scotland	£44.62	£52.50
Wales	£37	£50
North West	£35.19	£53
North East	£30.79	£47.75
West Midlands	£34.50	£54.75
East Midlands	£36	£52.38
East Anglia	£43.20	£47.75
London	£51	£51
South West	£42.04	£55.60
South East	£47.50	£50.66

Figures from NUS survey

The National Union of Students produces a document which helps student unions to *negotiate accommodation costs.*

It is not comprehensive but it showed *that this year St Andrews and* Dartington, in the West Country, (£50 a week) were the most expensive after London. The cheapest was Stockton (£25) followed by Crewe (£25.32) and Teeside (£26.50). Shared rented proper*ty is by far the most popular choice* among those who live out of college. Only 9 per cent opt for lodgings. Many *students take lodgings as second best* and are not keen to swap one set of parents for another.

Income from letting a single room varies. Some places appear to be goldmines. Huddersfield Technical *College is the Eldorado of lodgings* from the landlords' point of view at £70 a week; Manchester and Nottingham are high at £65; but lodgings dip to £30.50 at Crewe.

The good news is that you can earn up to £4,250 a year tax free by letting out a room in your own house. However, not paying tax on other properties let to students is a risky business. Tax officers carry out spot checks on advertisements.

Secure premises in Westminster

Emergency services are selling their property, says **Katherine Bergen**

IF YOU fancy a night in the cells, a property in Westminster will allow you to indulge your whim.

When a new police station was opened in Buckingham Palace Road in 1993, it replaced both the Gerald Road and Rochester Row stations. Rochester Row is partly vacant and it is understood that the Metropolitan Police intends to sell the site.

It *occupies a prominent* location in the Vincent Square conservation area and has two *main frontages, on to Rochester Row* and the tree-lined private space of the square.

The *site is composed of six* buildings, constructed at different times, set around a courtyard. *All are of architec*tural or historical interest. The four-floor police station and the *former magistrates'* court, also on Rochester Row, are Grade II listed buildings. Westminster City Council would require the preservation of the listed buildings.

The council is also seeking "to sustain an adequate and accessible range of social and community facilities to meet the needs of residents, workers and visitors in Westminster". The draft planning brief also states, "where, due to changing circumstances, a community facility is surplus to need, new development will be expected to provide some alternative community facility of benefit to the community".

But provision is nonetheless being made for the possibility of residential use.

● *Westminster City Council 0171-641 2259*

SHOULD you prefer another emergency service, the former Cheshire Fire Brigade headquarters is for sale. Wallmoor House, a Grade II listed Victorian structure, was once the home of the architect John Douglas, who was responsible for a number of notable buildings in Chester. After the relocation of the HQ in Winsford last month, Edmund Kirby is selling the site and buildings on behalf of Cheshire County Council.

"We anticipate interest for uses which, subject to consents, might include reversion to residential use, hotel, nursing home, restaurant or retention as offices," says Charles Hubbard, one of the partners. The property is 4,950 sq ft and is in a prominent position overlooking the River Dee and Broughton Meadows. Offers of between £800,000 and £1 million are expected when it is sold by formal tender this month.

● *Edmund Kirby 0151-236 4552*

REGALIAN, the London-based property developer, has restored and converted a listed Victorian hospital at Chipping Norton. Only one of the three-bedroom houses remains available in the building itself, through Knight Frank in a joint venture with Chancellors, but there are also five new houses being built in the grounds, starting at £140,000. They are traditional three-bedroom houses designed to blend with the Cotswold stone of the original buildings.

● *Knight Frank 01865 790077 or Chancellors 01608 644422*

Watch out for the mill squad

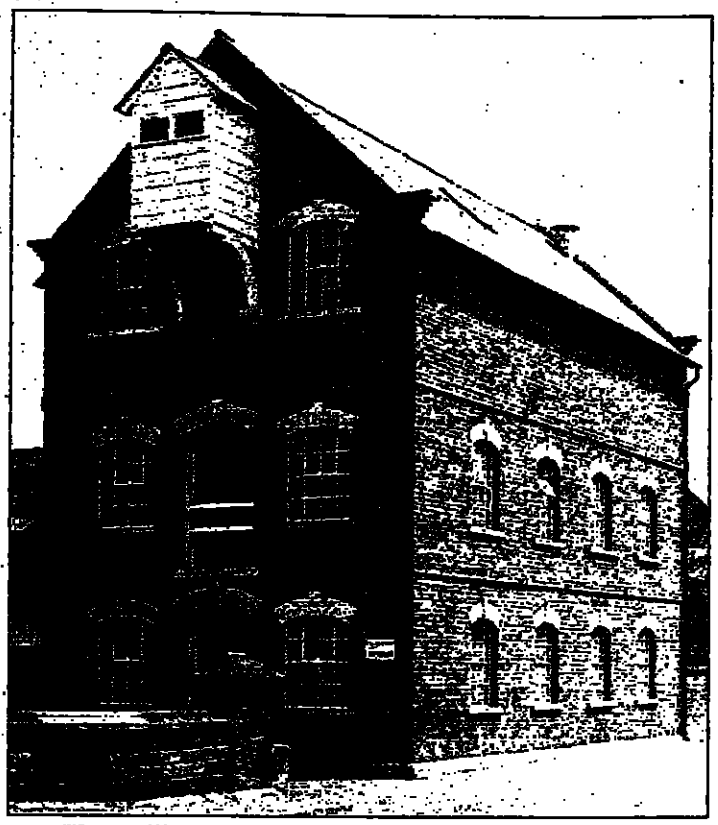
Want to live in a mill? **Christine Webb** recommends a cautious approach

Anyone buying an unlisted watermill in order to rip out its workings and convert it into a home should beware — they might be rumbled by a "flying squad" of conservationists who can virtually get the mill listed on the spot.

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) can call on a national network of rapid-response volunteers, ever ready to dash off to assess whether a threatened mill should be listed as a building of architectural and historical importance. Before work starts, they can secure an emergency listing obliging the owner not to destroy machinery — including wheels, cogs and shafts. This can seriously interfere with comfortable living.

The reason for this zeal is a growing realisation of what we have lost in the way of mills. Happily, the wheel has turned so far in the past five years that some mill homes are now being reconverted to mills.

There are an estimated 20,000 watermill sites in England and Wales. About 1,000 mills are working or could be made to work, and 40 of them operate commercially. A growing band of mill buffs are fuelling a niche market for watermills, especially those that could work. Last Sunday was an exciting day for them, and the 300 millowners who opened their old properties to the public to celebrate National Mills Day.


West Mill, Dorset, for sale at £125,000 with a studio flat

Their locations near rivers or streams often make watermills lovely homes. The large Swallows Mill at Grantham in Lincolnshire has been converted to 17 houses and apartments, costing from £75,000 to £235,000 (details: Humberts, 01476 576133).

But it pays to think carefully before you buy an unconverted mill. Help is available from experts, who will advise a potential buyer on a mill's chances of being listed.

Ken Major is an architect who specialises in the repair of old mills and a committee member of the society's wind and watermill section. He is often asked for advice, and urges: "Go to the conservation officer in your local district council or, if it has none, the area planning officer. They can also check with the society.

"Mills are increasingly valued; we are reaching a stage where a mill that has all its machinery in place will now be Grade II* listed, which entitles owners to some grant aid.

"There is a niche market for enthusiasts, but anyone who wants to restore a mill should realise that, even if it has most of its elements, it is likely to cost about £50,000 to get it working. Just putting new floats on a water wheel costs £12,000. The best advice I can give is to go for a mill that is already converted, and be wary of those that are not."

For anyone likely to heed his advice, there are some breathtakingly lovely converted mills on the market.

Cagebrook Mill at Clehonger near Hereford, overlooks its pond and is set in four acres of its own delightful valley, with a mill race and leat. The house is converted from the original mill and mill house to provide a 30ft living room, five bedrooms, two bathrooms, study, dining room, and even its own former chapel, which has planning permission for conversion to a dwelling. All this and more is on offer at £365,000 through Savills' Banbury office (01295 263535).

Whoever buys Bartley Mill, near Frant in East Sussex, gets the best of both worlds: a working flour mill, a shop and a four-bedroom house, both of which are Grade II listed. It dates from the 13th century, and also has two trout lakes and a coarse fishing pond within its 42 acres. Knight Frank's Tunbridge Wells office (01892 515035) is offering it for £495,000.

> 'They can virtually be listed on the spot'

The society's wind and watermill section lists mills for sale in its newsletter, including West Mill, Bridport, Dorset, a £125,000 town mill with a studio flat owned by David Hedworth (01308 423150), an architect who is selling because he feels guilty about using the mill as offices when it could be milling flour.

The society frowns on plans for conversions, and is a force to be reckoned with. The vice-chairman Mildred Cookson, the miller at Mapledurham Mill near Reading, Berkshire, says the society does not recommend conversions to dwellings "unless it's the last resort, the only way to save a derelict mill".

She adds: "We watch out for mills that are not listed or known about. Someone will phone to say they saw a building contractor parked in the mill yard, and did we know about it? One of us will rush there to do a written survey and take photographs. You can virtually get a mill listed on the spot now; it can take just one phone call."

The call would be to English Heritage, whose spokesperson explains: "Spot listing takes place if any building that is not listed is suddenly under threat of serious alteration. Then we and the Department of National Heritage, which is responsible for listing, have the capacity to consider the case and to act very quickly.

"We give expert advice on whether or not the building should be listed, although they make the final decision."

The society is the one body in the country that acts as a formal consultee to English Heritage. Mrs Cookson quips: "You could say I'm part of the flying squad. We have a list of people around the country, so if there is an emergency, they will get on their bike and go to see a mill for us. If we find in a planning application for conversion that they want to rip the machinery out, we might try to stop it — and with all our might.

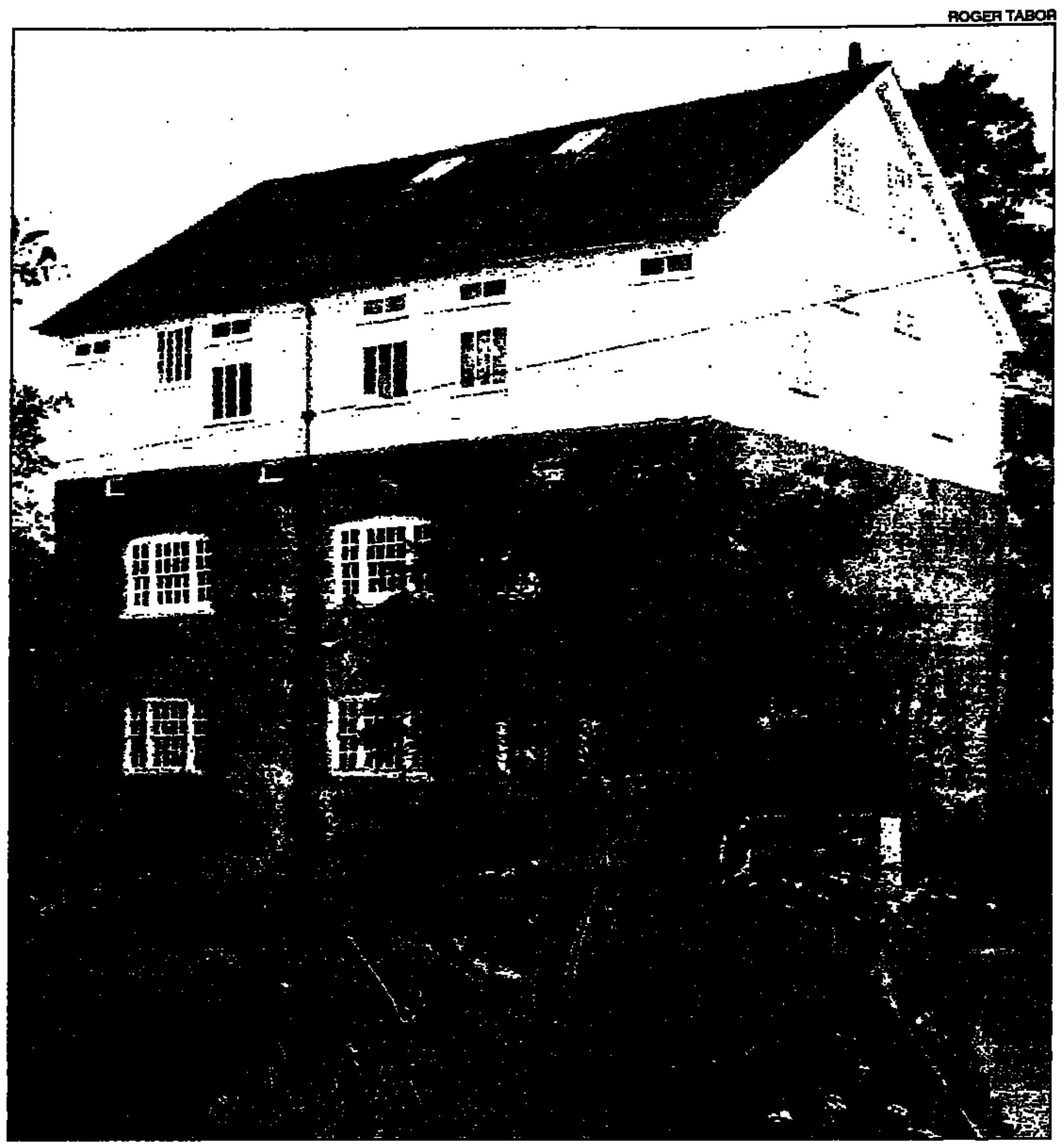
"We get opposition from mill owners. Once a mill is listed we say they must stick by the rules and do no alterations without reference to us."

Alan Stoyel, of the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments' emergency recording section, which is notified of planning applications to alter or demolish listed buildings, and who is a committee member of the wind and water mills section, says: "A mill's importance may not have been recognised. What has changed is public awareness. And there is an awareness in English Heritage of what has happened. It has brought into focus the number that have been lost to conversion and that those that are left are precious. We want to preserve them.

"One example was Chapel Mill near St Austell in Cornwall, used by the china clay industry. It was the last of its kind but was unlisted and overlooked and suddenly after pressure from me and others it became Grade II* listed. Emergency listing doesn't happen often. Ideally, no mills would have to be listed that way."

● *The SPAB's wind and watermill section is at 37 Spital Square, London E1 6DY.*

ROGER TABOR


The Essex mill, bought and restored by Roger Tabor and now the subject of a BBC2 series

All shoulders to the wheel

Morag Preston describes the restoration of a 'time capsule'

THE TERM "millitis" has been coined by Charles Llewellyn, chairman of Hurlingham Properties and author of *The Mill's Life*, out tomorrow, to describe the condition of prevarication that plagued him throughout the two years he spent restoring his historic family home in Essex.

After the death of his father in 1990, at the depth of the property recession, it was left to Mr Llewellyn to sell the mill, the granary and the mill house.

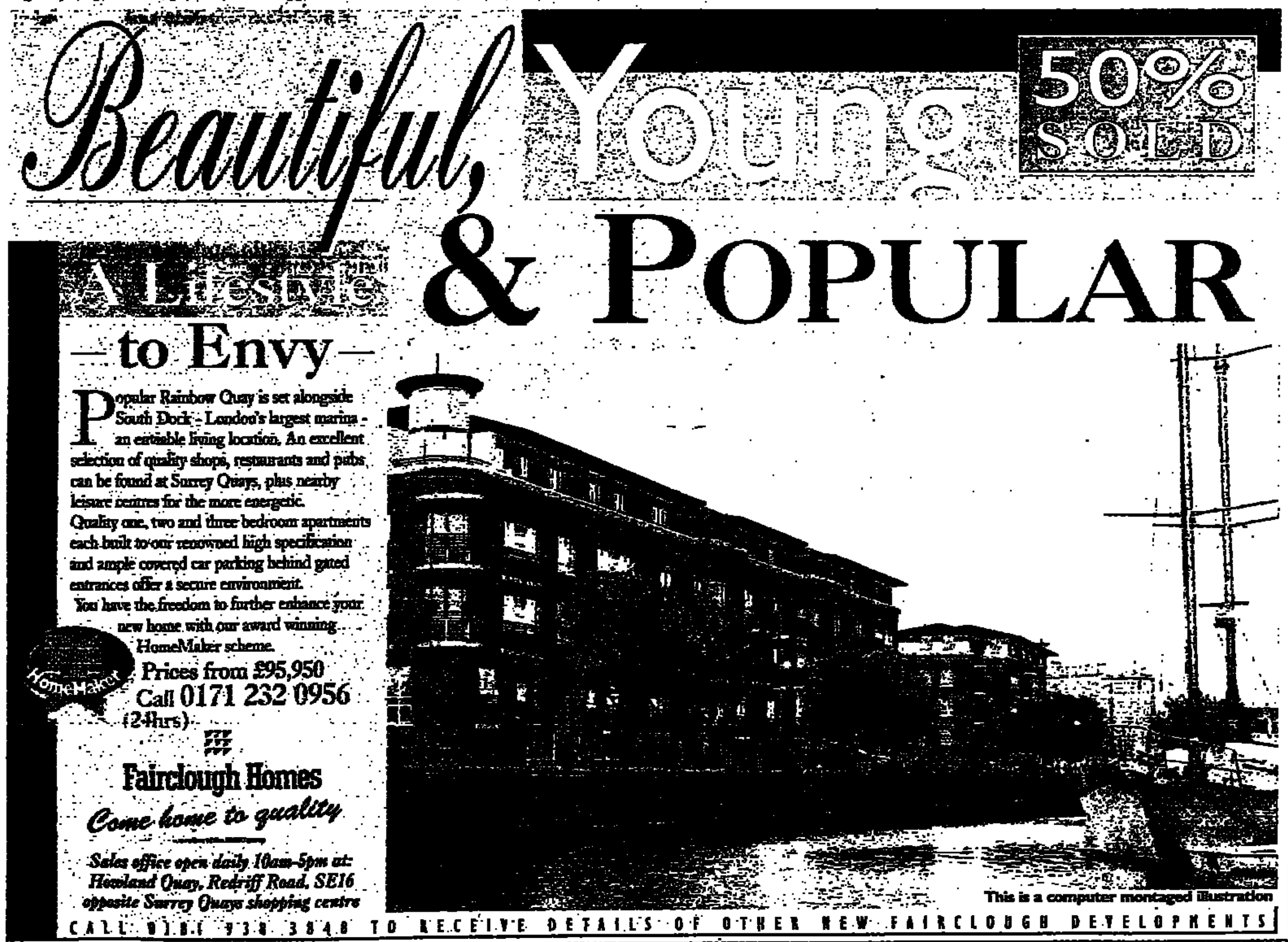
Roger Tabor, a television presenter, bought and restored the mill, now the subject of a five-part BBC2 series to be screened from tomorrow, while Mr Llewellyn bought the mill house next door and worked on that, intending to sell it on.

Mr Llewellyn's parents paid £6,000 in 1946 for the 25-acre site, mentioned in the *Domesday Book*. The house had been hardly touched since 1780, and was overrun with spiders. "It was full of rubbish and run down," Mr Llewellyn says. "I had to rewire the house, install drains and move the bathrooms. But the hardest part was personal. I've developed lots of properties in the way of business, but this was my family home, packed with personal memories. I had mixed feelings about selling, but life must go on."

Mr Tabor's troubles were mostly structural. First, he set about removing the dead starlings, some of the thousands that had made the 7,000 sq ft "time capsule" their home. Four out of five floors have been made habitable: the first floor is a vast reception room centred on a mill stone.

"I got to know the building before I started work," he says. "I learnt what the machinery was originally used for, and I tried to imagine how it would have been had the miller actually lived there."

● *The Mill's Life*, Robson Books, £16.95.



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Countryside PROPERTIES

Jealously guarded by strict planning rules, England's ancient university cities and most famous spa can still accommodate the new

Gaining places at Oxbridge

Oxford and Cambridge incorporate every cliché, with their sleepy rivers, narrow streets and ancient courts and quadrangles. Their vistas are protected by rigorous planning policies, but there are new buildings and developments in both locations which are sympathetic to the historical nature of their settings.

Barry Brown, an architect with the Cambridge practice Bland, Brown and Cole, has just completed the £6.5 million refurbishment of the Arts Theatre. He says the key to working in Cambridge is not to be hasty: "Planning is not insuperable, but *you can't do things in a* hurry." He has been involved in schemes for housing associations, several colleges, churches and special needs homes.

But his non-classical, rational pragmatist design for added residential accommodation for Downing College flustered the Fine Arts Commission. "The building is not in the tradition of Quinlan Terry, which is what the college is used to. But we do now have planning permission."

Berkeley Homes launched Eights Marina, a development of 39 apartments and penthouses on the banks of the Cam last October, and 55 per cent of the *apartments* have now been reserved or sold. Overlooking Midsummer Common, they cluster around a private marina. Prices range from £159,950 to £330,000 for two and three-bedroom flats and penthouses.

Elevations are classically proportioned, incorporating varying roof heights and features such as gables and cupolas. "This provides variety while ensuring the buildings are respectful of the architectural heritage of the place," says a spokesman for the developers, who have a another similar development on Midsummer Common called Evening Court.

In Oxford, for the first time in many years, a tower is rising to join the spires. A building on the west side of Folly Bridge, over the Isis, is to be converted and has received planning consent from the City Council. The development will include *five riverside flats, a riverside restaurant,* pontoons and boat hire and an adjacent art gallery and artists' studios.

Orde Levinson, the man behind the scheme, got two architecture students from Oxford Brookes University to design the project. "I had trouble from the town planners, who objected to the restaurant," he says. "But the Council and English Heritage approved the second set of designs and we start work in June, with completion by the end of the year."

The building company is Knowles and Son, which built one of the Oxford bridges *painted by Turner. The River Thames* Society has already asked Mr Levinson to allow it to hold its annual riverside dinner there.

KATHERINE BERGEN

Oxford's Folly Bridge development includes flats, a riverside restaurant and an adjacent art gallery. It will also add a tower to the dreaming spires

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Classic route to a position in Bath society

Taking a Georgian approach is the secret, says **Christopher Warman**

Bath's Georgian heritage is guarded so jealously that a new large country house near the city centre, between the Royal Crescent and Lansdown Crescent, is almost unthinkable.

Yet there it stands, now reaching completion, with the grand entrance flanked by two gate lodges. The finished building, Cavendish Lodge, is not quite as it seems, however: within the building are 20 apartments, the project finally approved by John Gummer, the then environment secretary, in 1994.

This was the culmination of a decade of protest by the City Council, Bath Society and the *Bath Preservation Trust,* including two inquiries, a High Court hearing and an Appeal Court judgment in favour of the protesters. The developers in turn appealed to Mr Gummer, who *overruled* the city planners.

'The setting has put Cavendish Lodge in a different class'

The three-acre site, which overlooks a golf course and has views across and beyond Bath, provides a magnificent setting. Largely derelict for some years, it was acquired in the mid-1980s by a local developer, Peter North, who brought in William Bertram, an archi*tect who has worked for the* Prince of Wales on improvements at Highgrove. The scheme is now owned by Beaufort Homes, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Berkeley Group.

Cavendish Lodge, the only classical building of its size built in Bath for 100 years, has walls of Bath stone and Cotswold open-jointed rubblestone, and classical columns and mouldings to recreate a *Georgian Palladian mansion.* Mr Bertram explains that the design was based upon two very simple ideas: the first to emulate John Wood the Elder, who combined six town houses into one classical building (in Queen's Square, Bath); and to produce a building which "*neither interfaced* with nor copied the crescents around it".

The apartments have two to three bedrooms, two reception rooms and two bathrooms and each has garaging. There *is a video entry system* through wrought iron gates, and comprehensive security in each apartment and lodge.

Euan Cresswell, Beaufort Homes' managing director, says: "Not only is Cavendish Lodge as good as any new development in Bath, but the *setting puts it into a different* class."

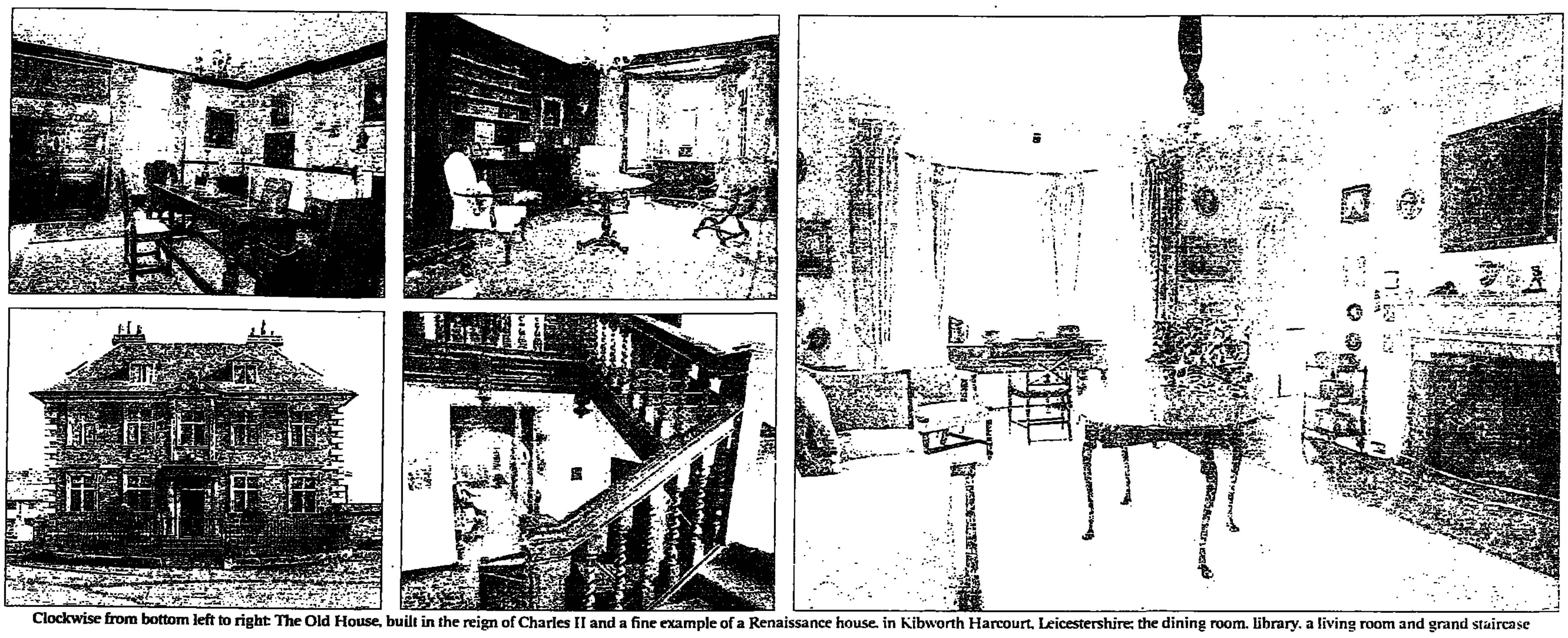
Both lodges and eight apartments have been sold or are reserved, and the remaining apartments, on a 999-year lease, are priced from £270,000 to £310,000. Joint agents are the Bath offices of Savills *(01225 444622) and* Cobb Farr (01225 333332).

Beaufort Homes has another classical project under way. Imperial Apartments in Imperial Square, Cheltenham, has 39 *apartments and* penthouses, which have proved so successful that more than 90 per cent were sold or reserved off-plan within five months of coming on to the market. Imperial Apartments is a classical terrace and follows the original 1834 plans for the square, which were never realised. Ralph Guilor, *today's architect,* has designed the new terrace in the pure Regency style of Cheltenham.

It backs on to Montpellier Apartments, another scheme by the developers, which is sold out. The last units at Imperial Apartments cost from £175,000 to £360,000 through Knight Frank International (01865 790077) and Andrews of Cheltenham (01242 235021).

Beaufort Homes' latest project in Cheltenham is Byron Court, a Regency-style mansion of 12 apartments and one penthouse. The two-bedroom apartments are on three floors, and the house is in private gardens, with a garage for each apartment. Prices are from £105,000 to £185,000 for the penthouse, through Halifax Property Services (01242 583128).

Cavendish Lodge: a new country house after years of protest



Clockwise from bottom left to right: The Old House, built in the reign of Charles II and a fine example of a Renaissance house, in Kibworth Harcourt, Leicestershire; the dining room, library, a living room and grand staircase

A listed house for children and bears

Katherine Bergen on the renaissance men who bring sensitivity and central heating to listed houses across Britain

Most people would consider themselves fortunate to live in one listed building during a lifetime. David Boyd, formerly an international banker, and Peter Burfoot, a solicitor, are on to their fourth and now looking for a fifth.

Even on first meeting Mr Boyd, resplendent in maroon waistcoat and elegant slippers, gives the impression of a character with a keen eye for detail. He is the creative side of a partnership which has spanned 40 years and four houses.

They have owned a house in Kew Green, originally lived in by the illustrious Ingleheart family, court ministers to George III: a house dating from 1727 in Lincolnshire, which they restored from a ruin: a George I house with a 13th-century priest house attached and an early Georgian Grade II listed town house in York which they moved from because they could not bear the taxi rank outside.

After five years of occupation they are now selling The Old House, built in the reign of Charles II and a fine example of the fully developed Renaissance house, in Kibworth Harcourt, Leicestershire, but only so that they can buy another in the county to give the same loving attention they have lavished on this one.

From the coat of arms of the Parker family, for whom the house was built, over the front door to the bread oven in the cellars, they know every inch of the £440,000 house and are even willing to debunk a few myths about it. "There is no secret passage to the church, as we have been told, and Cromwell did *not* stop here for refreshment once; that was the next door village," Mr Burfoot says emphatically.

Mr Boyd starts the tour of the house in the ground-floor drawing room, where a 19th-century bay has been added to the original structure, which was built in 1678. As an architectural purist, Mr Boyd still finds this addition vaguely annoying. "I do feel the room should stop here," he says, waving his arm up and down where the wall would have once been.

But the room, painted in a National Trust colour called Sugar Bag Light, a brilliant greeny-blue, is all the lighter for the later development.

We cross the hall, over original flagstones, into the dining room which is painted an edible shade called Pea Green. It is furnished with 17th-century furniture and pewter.

The only alteration here was the addition of a grate to what would have been an open fireplace in the late 18th century. The library, next to the drawing room, also has a bay added but the panelling is original.

The spacious beamed kitchen, the last room on the ground floor, would have originally been used as a dining hall for all the members of the household, while the cooking would have taken place in what are now used as cellars.

Upstairs in the principal bedroom a handsome four-poster bed is swathed in rich damask. All the main rooms are impeccably decorated with antique furniture, paintings, porcelain and tapestries purchased at auction by the owners.

It comes as a momentary relief to discover, in the salon on the first floor, the first evidence of more quirky personal taste. Facing the silk-covered chaise longue are three small teddy bears perched on a chair, one of them wearing a cravat.

Of the nine potential bedrooms spread out across the first and second floors, two are used as sitting rooms, one as a dressing room and another as the teddy-bear housing salon, and all are faultlessly presented and decorated.

Mr Boyd explains that to keep the rooms in such a state requires a constant programme of maintenance. "Every year we have the walls and the roofs checked and all the gutters cleaned. We use a team of craftsmen who know the house."

Two gardeners look after the garden which, although relatively small at just under one acre, has plenty to keep them occupied. A *parterre* has recently been created, an avenue of hornbeams planted and even the small front garden through the double wrought iron gates has been laid with coloured gravels, box hedging, ball-shaped shrubs and herbs in the 17th-century manner.

The owners do up their properties enthusiastically rather than commercially. "We hope to extend the life of a house like this," Mr Burfoot says. "If that means introducing central heating or more bathrooms we will do this sympathetically as people will want to go living in old houses if they have amenities."

When presented with the charge that historic houses like this may not be child-friendly, Mr Burfoot starts fulminating. "Nonsense," he retorts. "Generations of children have been brought up in this house since 1678."

After their success with The Old House — even some of the Georgian wallpaper fragments they found during restoration have ended up in the National Wallpaper Collection in Leeds — both gentlemen feel they have one house left in them. They would like to stay in East Leicestershire/Rutland and take on the challenge of restoring a stone house this time. "We might even take on a thatched house," they muse. You get the feeling that they will soon have the thatch behaving as well as a recently coiffed head of hair.

● *Strutt & Parker, Market Harborough office, tel: 01858 433123*

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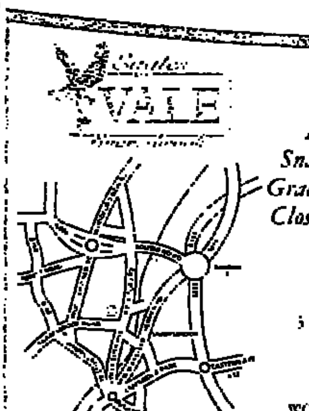

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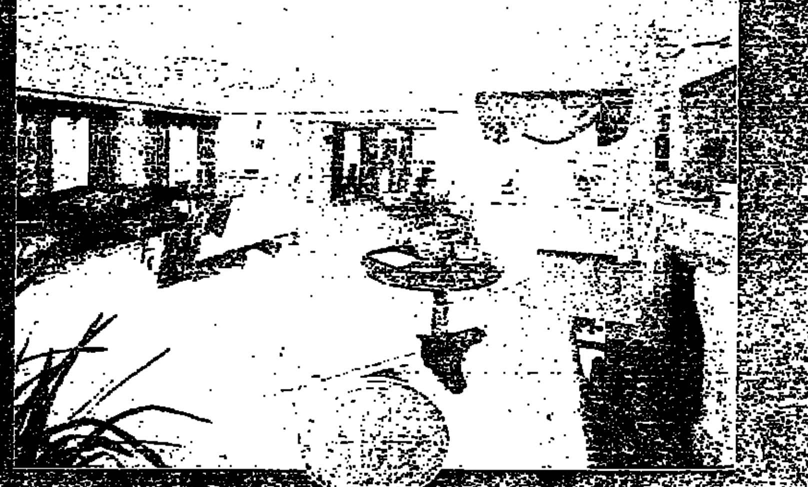

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Eve-Ann Prentice reports on the British colony about to be relinquished to the Chinese, where the cost of luxury apartments soared last year

Hong Kong stems sky-high prices

The most expensive homes in the world are to be found on a scrap of land on the far side of the world which is about to be taken over by one of the last great Communist powers, where nature plays havoc with typhoons and where the weather is often stiflingly humid.

Just over six weeks before China takes charge of Hong Kong, property prices have hit a downward spiral, but this is only because of Government moves to curb rampant speculation and a rise in American interest rates — not because of any shadow cast by the impending changeover.

Perhaps even more surprising is the fact that estate agents in the territory expect the market to rebound with prices soaring to new highs for the rest of the year.

There are three main reasons for Hong Kong's sky-high residential property prices:

- A chronic housing shortage coupled with a fast growing population.
- Rich residents deciding to stay on in Hong Kong after arranging boltholes abroad in case the Chinese takeover goes wrong for them.
- Speculators from China and South-East Asia snapping up luxury apartments in the belief that prices, which rose more than 40 per cent last year, will continue to rise.

In November, a single-family house on the exclusive Victoria Peak fetched a record HK$70 million (£5.5 million), while earlier this year 27,000 people queued to buy 1,600 flats in another new development.

Even flats built in less fashionable areas, such as the border with China, are being snapped up. Six hundred flats — at £375 per square foot — were sold in one day when they went on sale at Tin Shui Wai, an out-of-the-way location near the Chinese border a few weeks ago. A four-bedroom flat in Dynasty Court, a stylish complex, has sold for more than £500,000, while homes on Hong Kong Island's southern coast cost up to £750,000.

HKTA

Hong Kong: while some poor families have to live on boats, property speculators forced prices of homes to leap 20 to 30 per cent in the first three months of this year

Standard flats for expatriate families in Kowloon, one of the most densely crowded places on earth, cost about £5,500 a month to rent, while luxury homes for top executives can cost more than £12,000 a month to rent.

Nonetheless, developers and estate agents were angry last month when the Hong Kong Government decided to extend the period under which developers could sell flats before they are finished from a year to 15 months — but on condition that all flats in a given development are put on the market within six months.

The authorities hope that earlier sales will improve liquidity for developers and prompt them to put more apartments on the market.

Property companies have traditionally tried to keep prices high by putting fewer than 30,000 homes on the market each year for the past decade, and last year hit a new low when only 19,000 became available.

The new rule was announced on the same day that Hong Kong banks raised their prime lending rates from 8.5 per cent to 8.75 per cent, an increase prompted by the rise in American rates, since the Hong Kong dollar is pegged to the American currency.

A spokesman for the Hong Kong Real Estate Developers' Association described the changes as "an unwarranted intervention in normal commercial decision-making".

The double blow for property speculators came after the price of homes leapt 20 to 30 per cent in the first three months of this year. Estate agents in the territory expect the rate rise and the new rule governing flat sales to bring a fall in apartment prices of up to 10 per cent this summer before recovering and rising later in the year.

Ivan Chen Kun-wah, an assistant general manager of Midland Realty estate agents, told the *South China Morning Post* newspaper: "Prices were going too far, it was time to take a break."

However, most developers believe that speculation fever is unlikely to be cooled by China's takeover in July, largely because Hong Kong's scarcity of good housing is getting worse.

The territory's population has surged by 16 per cent to 6.3 million in the past ten years, a level planners had not expected until 2010. The leap in property prices means that most Hong Kong families cannot afford to buy and more than 50 per cent of the population now lives in public housing.

As well as the burgeoning population and chronic housing shortage, the price of homes have been bolstered by a 34.5 per cent rise in the Hang Seng share index, which is dominated by property companies.

Hong Kong politicians are now worried that the bubble could burst just as Beijing takes over. Chris Patten, the Governor, and C.H. Tung, the man who becomes Chief Executive of the territory on July 1, have both warned that property prices are rising too quickly and there have been dark rumours of a 16.5 per cent profit tax on speculators.

Luxury and elegance that suit to a tee

Golfers and second-home owners enjoy the splendour of Royal Westmoreland in Barbados, says **Diana Wildman**

Next month, on Friday the 13th, opposing teams from the Royal Westmoreland Golf Club and the Sandy Lane golf club will play for the Duke of York trophy. This is a fine silver claret jug which the Duke presented to Royal Westmoreland during his last visit to Barbados — on condition a competition was held for it every Friday the 13th.

The Duke, an excellent golfer and an honorary club member, will not be participating this time but he plans to play for Royal Westmoreland the following time round, February 13, 1998.

Six years ago, Royal Westmoreland was just another bankrupt West Indies sugar plantation. It is set in the foothills above St James on the sophisticated west side of the island, home of the Sandy Lane and Glitter Bay hotels. It is here, too, that the horse supremo Robert Sangster owns a grand beachside mansion and where the Guinness family, the Cunards and Noël Coward chose to holiday in their vast villas.

But today's second-home owner doesn't just want to sip cocktails all day. Most buy with an eye on future rental income, a well-managed leisure scheme and in-house management and rental facilities as well as plenty of sport.

Royal Westmoreland consists of an 18-hole championship golf course, the focal point of which is the colonial-style clubhouse. Split-level town houses around the club have been built and mostly sold.

Edging the greens and fairways are some elegant, detached villas. Fifty homes have been sold, and a further 25 are sold but still under construction. The company expects to sell a further 50 homes this year. When the development is completed, there will be 300 elegant properties.

Prices range from £330,000 for a two-bedroom unit while standard detached, four-bedroom villas cost from £490,000-£770,000. Individually designed homes on large plots start at £1.3 million.

Royal Westmoreland has a special government concession for overseas purchasers who do not have to pay the usual 10 per cent property purchase tax.

In addition, non-residents may obtain a local mortgage up to 50 per cent. However, Barbadian law specifies that all property transactions must be handled by a local attorney.

Sales manager David Barnard says: "A lawyer could advise on the formation of an offshore company through which the property would be purchased if required. All property owners have the right to become members of the golf club but outside membership is limited."

Prominent outside members include Sir Garfield Sobers and Virginia Wade.

Giles Rooney, UK director of Royal Westmoreland, says: "Although the homes are proving extremely attractive to golfers, a large proportion of buyers do not play golf at all.

"These purchasers are buying for lifestyle factors, the security of the gated development and the community facilities which include tennis, swimming pools, a health spa, gymnasium and restaurant."

A smart marina development is planned for Port St Charles, on the west coast of Barbados, a few miles north of St James. This scheme will consist of one to three-bedroom apartments, three-bedroom town houses and spacious beachfront villas, priced from about £198,000 to £1.3 million through Nick Leeming of Humberts.

Planners have included several amenities exclusively for residents, including membership of the yacht club. No duty will be charged on personal effects or yachts brought into Barbados by Port St Charles residents.

Recreational facilities include two restaurants, shops, tennis and squash courts, a spa and an islet within the marina's lagoon with a freshwater swimming pool, bar and a dinghy dock.

● *Royal Westmoreland, 11 Berkeley Street, London 1X 6BU (0171-355 5025). Humberts, 25 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9FE (0171-629 0909).*

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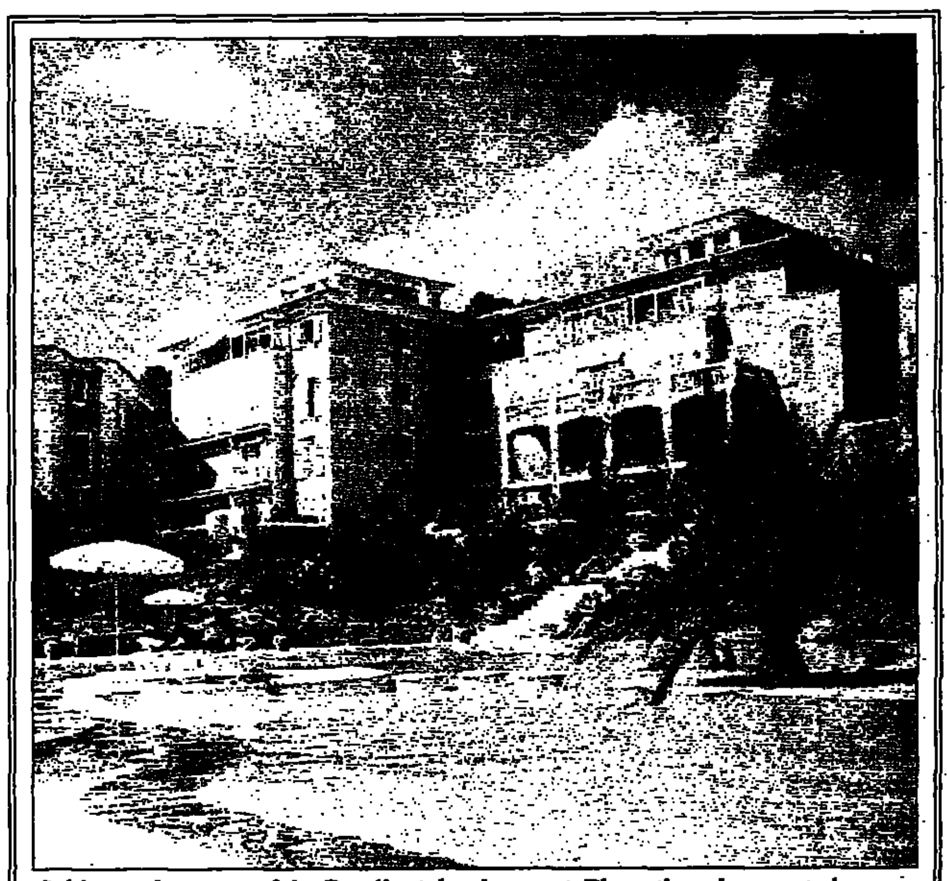


Sold out: phase two of the Bendinat development. Phase three is now under way

Golf's the big hook for Majorcan resorts

High-class coastal fairway developments are now going with a swing, reports **Christopher Warman**

GOLF, as much as sea and sun, is an abiding reason for building residential developments in southern *Europe. The choice of* Valderrama at the Spanish resort of Sotogrande, east of Gibraltar, for this year's Ryder Cup is recognition of its growing importance.

Majorca, too, has seen an increase in the number and quality of its golf courses as it continues its progress upmarket. The latest projects at Bendinat, an 850-acre estate close to Palma, demonstrate this point. It was bought in the early 1980s by Prince Nawaf bin Abdul Aziz, a senior member of the Saudi Arabian royal family. The estate's first phase sold out quickly, mainly to the British market, and the second phase — the golf complex — has also sold out. That included a nine-hole golf course and 130 apartments. Phase three is now under way.

The 21 apartments and eight town houses at Ses Olíveres, due for completion in June 1998, have been designed by Joan Manuel Bonnin on two, three and four floors in a typically Mediterranean style, with varied roof levels. Conscious of environmental issues, the developers have met the challenge with low-lying buildings that blend in with the landscape, using a separate network of water for drinking and irrigation, low-wattage street lighting, solar light and double glazing to save energy, and special materials to improve insulation.

The Royal Bendinat golf course has joined the Audubon Society of New York, a leading ecological group with more than 2,000 member golf courses, including Augusta. Bendinat is the first course in Spain, along with Valderrama, to become a full member, and the course will become a reserve for flora and fauna.

Prices, including a share in the golf club, range from £121,000 for a one-bedroom apartment and £128,000 for two bedrooms, to £154,000 for a three-bedroom duplex. Town houses cost from £199,500 to £244,000. (Prices based on 230 pesetas to the pound.) For further information, telephone 0181-743 5988.

Valderrama is one of three courses at Sotogrande, which with three further courses nearby claims to be the home of European golf. As well as golf, the 4,500-acre Sotogrande estate offers sandy beaches, a marina, riding and other sports — everything that meets the requirements of a modern leisure resort. But golf, and the Spanish success of enticing the Ryder Cup from Britain, is the main reason for interest in property there.

Holmes, long-established estate agents at Sotogrande, looks after new and resale properties as well as rental property, including the week of the Ryder Cup in September.

The Sotogrande estate also offers sandy beaches, a marina and horse riding

The estate is becoming increasingly cosmopolitan, both in owners and developers. The agents are now selling villas in a new development completed by Mont Services, Russian-owned and Danish-built, in one of the more established areas near the Old Course and river. Aimed at the top of the market, they are for sale from about £540,000.

More realistically, for those who have not won the National Lottery, Holmes offers a wide range of resale apartments and houses. Apartment prices start from about £50,000 for a two-bedroom one at Tenisol, from £80,000 for a beach apartment, and from £210,000 for four-bedroom, terraced houses on the edge of the Guardiaro river, with views of Gibraltar and the nature reserve island. (Holmes: 01473 610758).

Why eight is a lucky number

Superstition can play a part when foreigners go house-hunting in Britain, says **Katherine Bergen**

As a classic English xenophobe, Uncle Matthew in Nancy Mitford's novel *Pursuit of Love* expresses an unambiguous view of foreigners. "Abroad is unutterably bloody and foreigners are fiends," he rants. He would be appalled to discover how much foreigners like this country and are making themselves at home here.

According to Knight Frank, overseas tenants account for more than 80 per cent of the *prime central London lettings* market. Landlords who want to stay ahead of competition would be well advised to study the different national characteristics, as perceived by British estate agents.

Americans like well-equipped homes with large kitchens and lots of bathrooms with high-quality fittings and power showers. They also like period homes.

Fitness-conscious Americans like swimming pools, gyms and tennis courts, and both Aylesford and Knight Frank point out that the American School in St John's Wood make that area particularly attractive. The property developer Anthony Lassman says smart Americans also love Belgravia because it compares favourably with Park Avenue and Fifth Avenue in New York. Middle Eastern clients also like Belgravia.

The French want traditional properties but in pristine order, says Knight Frank. The Lycée in South Kensington and the premises of the Alliance Française, which are also located there, have led to a concentration of French people in the area. The Scandinavians, Swiss and Germans like lots of natural wood and light and high-tech fittings. The Swiss insist on power showers, while the Germans are keen to settle in Richmond, near the German School.

Savills says that Middle Eastern clients, as well as Greek, Turkish and Russian buyers, like large family apartments with lots of space in purpose-built mansion blocks. A lot of kudos is attached to proximity to Harrods and Hyde Park.

Foxtons has found Chiswick to be popular with the Japanese because of the Japanese School in Ealing. Their taste is for new properties with simple, almost minimalist, decoration. At Knight Frank, staff find that the Japanese can cause confusion by complimenting a property even when they do not like it in order to avoid causing offence.

The Hong Kong Chinese like newly built homes with a high quality of finish. According to Aylesford, they buy *more for investment, like Sin*gaporeans, than for owner occupation. Foxtons has found that they are interested in buying newly refurbished blocks, especially in Kensington, where they will pay up to £600 or £700 per square foot.

Knight Frank's experience is that Hong Kong Chinese are highly superstitious when choosing a property. A death in a house or a nearby graveyard is very unlucky. Conversely, a house that has had a fire can be lucky, as is the number eight. Many Chinese will not live in a property in a new development that has a four in the number.

Trevor Abrahmsohn, managing director of Glentree Estates, luxury agents specialising in north London, says Middle Eastern purchasers can be stubborn. "They want a good position, opulent and overtly ostentatious. They don't understand what we call the Tardis principle, the idea that something small from the outside can be big inside.

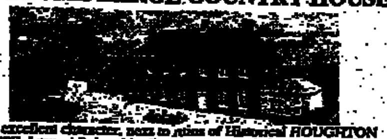
"Indian purchasers are clever and astute but the garden has to be cow-faced shape. A deal failed because the top part of the garden was thinner than the bottom part. And the house needs to be blessed and face the right way. The Japanese can be similar.

"Russians and East Europeans like Sixties-built houses with wood cladding. And they like leafy areas, which perhaps remind them of their dachas. But now they're beginning to move to the centre. They are fast decision-makers: they'll exchange and complete in days."

Ealing properties appeal to the Japanese (Foxtons, £495,000)

PRIVATE SALES

HANDSOME LARGE COUNTRY HOUSE



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5 double bedrooms (all en-suite) with adjoining dressing areas, TV & phone points, etc, drawing room, dining room, cloakroom, study, huge 26' kitchen/breakfast room, double garage, double glazed, Calor Gas CH, standing in formal gardens. Adjoining Paddock with stable/ workshop Gravelled driveway Superb decorative order Close shopping, railway etc.

£295,000 Tel: 01736 69979.

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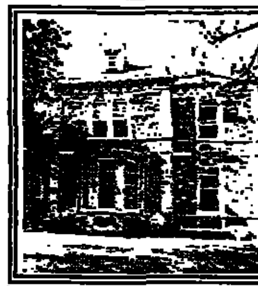

Designer's superb large bright Victorian house & studio imaginatively restored & modernised retaining period features. 3100sq ft mainly on two floors, CGH, open aspects, gardens, large balcony, parking. F/H. Near shops, BBC. University Brochure available. £295,000.

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Unrestricted parking. Lovely & unrestricted views.
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£350,000

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A home for connoisseurs

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£495,000.

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Adorable apartment facing south, 66 sq.m. entirely equipped & furnished, 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 1 shower room, 2 Wc, combined living & dining , open kitchen, large terrace with table.

Parking, 2 cellars, 2 ski cupboards. In excellent condition.

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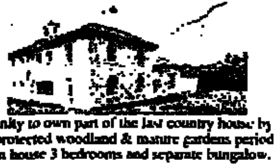

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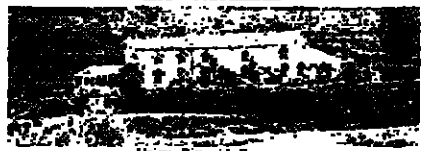
LANCASHIRE



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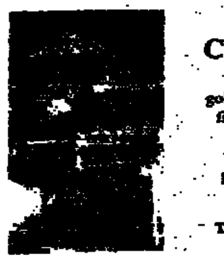

3 bedroom town house on golf course, beautiful sea views, fitted kitchen, 2½ bathrooms, top floor sun lounge, furnished, communal pool, garage, 10 mins Valderrama

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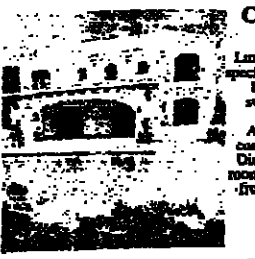

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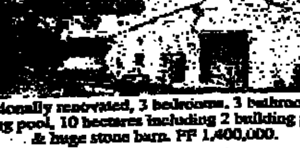

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An elegant four storey maisonette forming the major part of this regency house. The accommodation, which is laid out over the raised ground, first, second and third floors, comprises entrance hall, drawing room, dining room, kitchen, four bedrooms, two bathrooms, cloakroom, utility area and garden. Royal Crescent is at the western end of Holland Park Avenue and is well located for the transport facilities, shops and restaurants of Holland Park. NOTTING HILL GATE OFFICE 0171 616 7000

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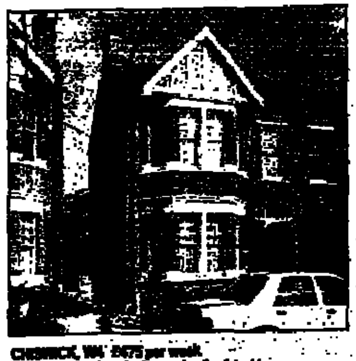

CHISWICK, W4 £475 per week
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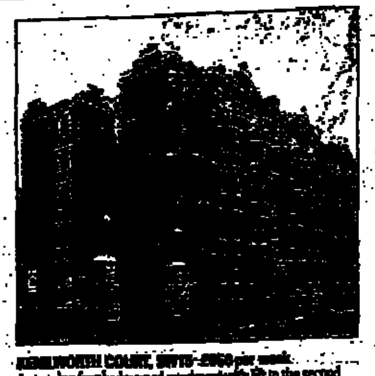

KENILWORTH COURT, SW15 £950 per week
A stunning four bedroomed apartment with lift to the second floor and prestigious out towards the river Thames and the Hurlingham Club. The apartment retains many features and comprises reception room, dining room, kitchen, four bedrooms, two bathrooms, separate WC, utility room, lift and communal gardens. PUTNEY OFFICE 0181 355 1000

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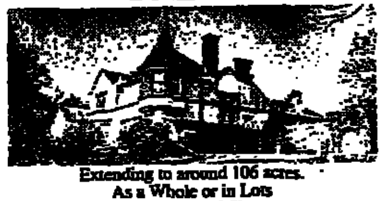

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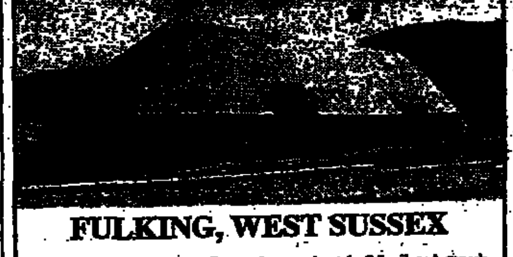

FULKING, WEST SUSSEX

Brighton approximately 8 miles, A23 approximately 5.5 miles. A superb converted Grade II listed period Barn delightful setting at the foot of the South Downs.

Magnificent reception hall, dining room, breakfast room, study, kitchen, utility, master bedroom suite, 2 guest bedroom suites, 2 further bedrooms, 4th bathroom, garaging.

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Price Guide: £465,000

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MAIN PICTURE: HAST HILL HOUSE.
SMALL PICTURE: ROOF GARDEN TO PENTHOUSE.

A magnificent penthouse apartment has now been released for sale and offers the following accommodation: three double bedrooms, three ensuite bathrooms, two reception rooms, a large kitchen/breakfast room, two garages, its own private roof top garden and communal tennis court.
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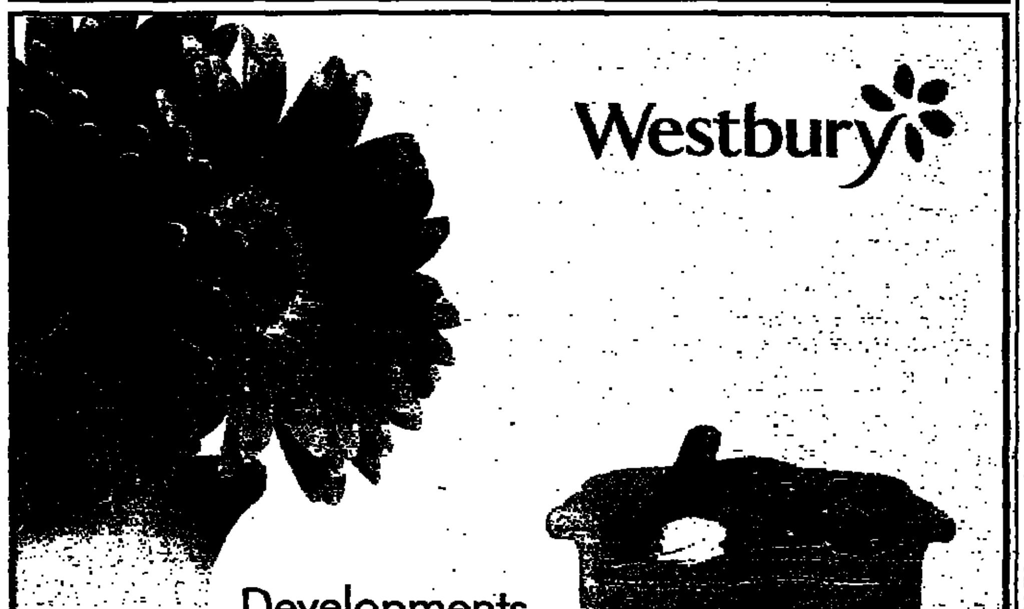

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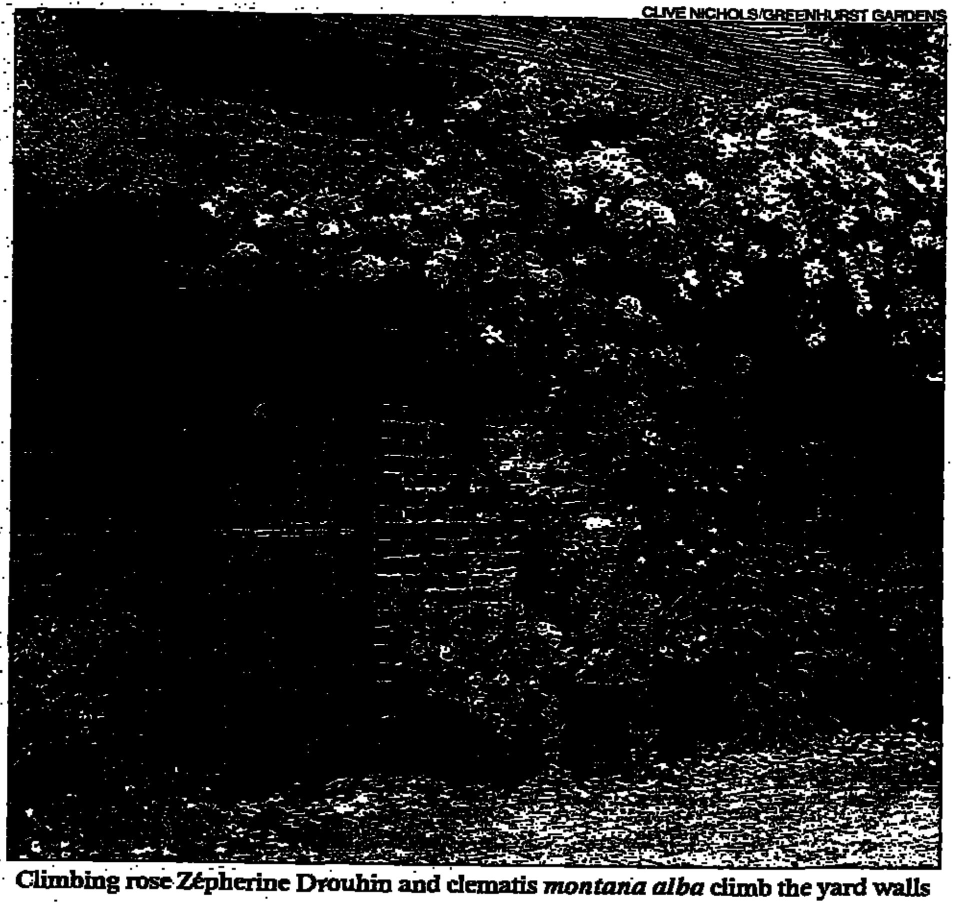

Climbing rose Zéphirine Drouhin and clematis *montana alba* climb the yard walls

CLIVE NICHOLS/GREENHURST GARDENS

The pond is home to moorhens and wild ducks and even attracts kingfishers

Skill and hard work have transformed a 17th-century house in Sussex, writes **Shona Crawford Poole**

Wilderness tamed by a labour of love

Behind every rural idyll lie decades of hard work with spade and trowel. Gilly Hopton's 17th-century cottage and garden is a prime example.

Greenhurst is a rambling cottage built side-on to a lane that runs between Storrington and Thakeham, deep in West Sussex. It is a modest, loved house, with five bedrooms, a detached four-room annexe, and a captivating garden.

The look is uncontrived, but skill, care and 20 years of hard work have gone into it. Mrs Hopton created her garden single-handed.

In the beginning, there was three quarters of an acre of rough grass facing south and bordering farmland. Succeeding summers saw less lawn, bigger borders. Today meandering paths open on to unsuspected delights.

CLIVE NICHOLS/GREENHURST GARDENS

Pansies offer a cheery welcome to the house

There are wigwams of scented sweet peas on the old vegetable patch, a sizeable pond unseen from the house, and passages of inspired planting, each area a delight in close-up, a small part of a charming whole.

"The pond is easily the best thing I have done," she says. "I have had kingfishers in it, even though there is no stream nearby, and it brings in wild ducks and moorhens."

At this time of year forget-me-nots run amok between the new greenery of summer faithfuls — lupins, hollyhocks, columbines and sweet williams. Wild strawberries clamber up the steps from the greenhouse, leading to a run of apple trees espaliered at waist height. Soon there will be roses everywhere, pink Zéphirine Drouhin climbing with clematis *montana alba* over the walls in the yard. Shrub roses in the borders including *rugosa*, and strongest of the climbers, Kiftsgate, spilling its creamy white flowers with abandon.

The garden is defined by a now-you-see-it, now-you-don't cast of trees and hedging. On one side an ancient beech offers shade. A golden-leafed maple and the chalk-pale leaves of whitebeam, a species which grows wild on the South Downs, are star turns. Tamed laurel and trim box alternate with rampant stretches of ivy and hawthorn. Then at the bottom of the garden, nothing much at all separates border from field.

A brick-paved yard at the back of the house separates it from the annexe. Pansies, herbs and spring flowers tumble out of pots standing around in welcome. The garage doors are kept open for the swallows who come back to nest in the roof every year.

Mrs Hopton has lived in the village all her life. When she was widowed ten years ago she threw her energy into the garden. Now her own children have flown the nest, she says: "I want to move on, to make another garden, and I want a view of the Downs."

Inside and out, there is a feeling of easy good order at Greenhurst. It is partly to do with age. "The deeds go back to 1723, but I'm sure it is older. A Roman road goes under the house and there is a spring in the cellar which is now pumped. Although there is no mention of its having been two cottages in the deeds, that's clearly what it was at one time. I took out a very steep, narrow staircase that we never used."

Today, the back door is also the front door and opens straight into the kitchen breakfast-room with exposed roof beams, a deep blue Rayburn, and pine cupboards. Between the kitchen and the dining and sitting rooms on the other side of the house, are a couple of small rooms each inviting an hour with a book or a flop in front of the television. The scent of woodsmoke lingers deliciously in the sitting room, which has a log-burning grate in the inglenook fireplace, and a carved frieze on the dark oak bressummer beam above it.

Five bedrooms are split between the first and second floors, and there are bathrooms on the first and ground floors. An iron contraption for hanging sides of bacon is suspended from a big beam across the largest room in the annexe. It is the one clue to how this former farm building was used. Now it is a self-contained home or workplace consisting of three rooms plus a kitchen, shower room and lobby. Another sizeable space above the adjoining double garage could be brought into the annexe accommodation.

It is likely the house will sell to someone with a good use for the annexe. The asking price is £475,000 freehold with Guy Leonard & Partners, Mill Lane, Storrington, West Sussex RH20 4NF. Telephone 01903-742354.

UNWINS SEEDS LTD/BBC GARDENERS' WORLD LIVE

Making a comeback: versatile strawberry spinach

Strawberry and green, all in one

Katherine Bergen reports on the latest from the nurseries

IMAGINE a plant with fruit that tastes like strawberries and leaves that taste like spinach. Sounds like just the thing for a small city garden.

Strawberry spinach can be grown in a vegetable patch or in pots, using a good rich soil. It is one of more than 20 new or revived plants which will be launched at *BBC Gardeners' World Live 1997* at the NEC in Birmingham next month.

"You can eat the leaves and the fruit. Even the flowers are edible," says Jekka McVicar, of Jekka's Herb Farm, near Bristol, which is reintroducing strawberry spinach. "The fruit actually tastes like a mixture of strawberry and raspberry."

From Oldbury Nurseries in Kent, Peter Dresman expects to introduce four new half-hardy fuchsias. All have attractive, simple flowers known as singles. They are Auntie Kit, with crimson and cyclamen-purple flowers; My Eve, which has rose and bright purple flowers; Bunny Bambini, which has crimson and purple flowers set in unusual lime-green, two-tone foliage, and Ron's Ruby, with deep red flowers.

Sophie, a new sweet pea, sweetly scented and coral pink, from S & N Brackley in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, is named after the first granddaughter of the owner, and has taken 12 years to cultivate. Other new plants include three new hostas from Park Green Nurseries in Stowmarket, Suffolk, and an unusual new miniature red semi-double saintpaulia from Glenedd Violets in Spalding, Lincolnshire.

"New plants are the lifeblood of the nation's gardens," says Max de Soissons, of the Royal Horticultural Society's show department.

Visitors to the show will be able to buy these new plants.

● BBC Gardeners' World Live 1997 *runs from June 11-15 and is open from 9am-7pm (Sunday 9am-6pm). Ticket hotline 0121-767 4111.*

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Winning ways with offices

Martin Pickard, head of property, at Cellnet's offices in Slough

Christopher Warman looks at the innovation behind this year's Office of the Year awards

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

The design of offices has never been more important as the needs of business change in line with advancing technology. Teleworking, hot-desking and *serviced offices (elsewhere on this page)* all offer a challenge to the traditional office.

The Office of the Year awards, produced by the British Insititute of Facilities Management in association with *The Times*, therefore offer an insight into the ways in which professionals are responding — to the point where there may be no such thing as a "traditional" office.

Cellnet, winner of two awards — the existing buildings class and facilities management team award — are based in Slough, but needed an additional building to house their head office. They found a three-storey building, with a central atrium, standing empty.

The management used the opportunity to adapt the building, in Bath Road, Slough, to reinforce structural changes in its way of doing business, bringing in more team-based working.

The previous hierarchical structure, allowing enclosed offices, was changed. No longer could staff regard space as their right and as a status symbol. Now it has become a flexible resource, and people are moved about.

To the delight of the company, 90 per cent of the staff said they were satisfied with their new workplaces, and productivity increased.

Martin Pickard, Cellnet's head of property, said the building looked good and felt good. "We are very pleased that we changed the offices in line with what was needed to help the company to move forward, to take it in the direction it wanted to go," he said.

The judges reported they were "very impressed with the project team's development of a strategy to support business objectives at both the corporate and the individual levels. This has been implemented with great imagination and efficiency."

Mr Pickard is just as pleased that he and his team won the facilities management team award. "We are usually considered as being responsible for fire buckets and underlay. It is good to be recognised for helping the business we serve," he says.

E-fact limited, a newly formed graphic art company, subsidiary of a German advertising agency, and winners of the smaller offices award, had a simple brief to the interior designers Architeam: find inexpensive offices in the heart of London which could be converted into a truly paperless office for 35 people, with room for expansion.

The offices, in St John Street, London ECI, are divided into open and private cellular space, the floor covered in blue studded rubber tiles, the walls white except for one set of walls painted in different shades of green, and the partitions constructed of glass blocks to increase natural light. The most advanced graphic design computer equipment is installed to allow the company to produce the very highest quality of artwork available, but no one has a specific workstation — and there is a total absence of paper.

The heart of this super-modern environment is perhaps best epitomised by the database servers which are encased in a three-metre diameter cylinder of glass blocks, pulsing with a heartbeat of blue light. Now there's originality and creativity for you.

Winners of the other categories were British Airways Compass Centre at Heathrow (purpose built offices); British Nuclear Fuels Ltd, Thorp Division, Sellafield (green award); and Leo Burnett Ltd, Sloane Avenue, London (innovation award).

The 237,000 sq ft Compass Centre was designed to incorporate a new culture for BA staff to enable more effective communications between all personnel by combining, for the first time, flight crews, cabin crews and administrators. These had previously been housed at different sites.

BNFL's new management centre benefits from its close proximity to, and association with, the nuclear reprocessing facilities. Space heating is derived from a ring main encircling the Sellafield site which uses steam generated as a byproduct of the nuclear fission process. Electricity is also sourced from the nuclear facilities.

Leo Burnett's "innovation" was to incorporate a swipe card security system as a mechanism for controlling the lighting systems and air conditioning, which saves energy.

A computer impression of Solaris

SOLARIS, a new mixed-use development for west London, including offices, a Tesco superstore, 75 housing units and leisure facilities, has been launched by Spen Hill Properties.

The focus for the project, on the junction of West Cromwell Road and Warwick Road, London W14, will be a 160,000sq ft office building and an open air piazza. Healey & Baker, the agents, say that Solaris is designed along the principles in the Department of the Environment's new planning guidelines, which encourage the use of mixed development to bring life back into urban environments.

■ The designs for two new buildings for the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange (LIFFE) at the old Spitalfields market, drawn up by architects Foster and Partners, have gone on show. An application for planning permission has been submitted to Tower Hamlets Council. The application, endorsed by the Spitalfields Development Group, is for a 485,000 sq ft trading building and a 240,000 sq ft support building on SDG's 13-acre site close to Liverpool Street station. A masterplan for the whole Spitalfields site was developed to ensure a coherent design for the area, and given planning permission by the council in 1993.

■ A new retail park could safeguard the future of higher education on the Isle of Wight, according to Donaldsons, chartered surveyors. The Isle of Wight College, the only source of further and higher education on the island and its fifth biggest employer, is under threat because of its costly and largely obsolete buildings.

The college has now agreed to sell surplus land at its site in Newport to Sears Property Developments Ltd, which intends to develop a 160,000 sq ft retail park. The site sale proceeds will meet the costs of the new college, and an application has been submitted to the Isle of Wight Council.

■ Wates City of London Properties has let the entire office content of its development at 90 Queen Street, EC4, to a single tenant, Banca Commerciale Italiana S.p.A, one of Italy's largest clearing banks. The bank will move its London headquarters from 42 Gresham Street, EC2, to the 63,109 sq ft building in the autumn.

Mark Dixon, the man behind the growing Regus empire, has made a fortune with bold property ideas

The burger king goes global

THERE is no better evidence of the growing achievements of Regus, the leading provider of fully serviced offices worldwide, than the entry of its executive chairman and founder, Mark Dixon, in this year's *Sunday Times* list of the richest men in the UK. *Christopher Warman writes.*

Mr Dixon, 32, who left school at 16, started his career selling hamburgers. He sold that business in 1988 and used the proceeds to launch Regus. *The Sunday Times* estimates that he is now worth £250 million.

Further recognition came when he was voted UK property entrepreneur of the year at the 1997 Property Awards, sponsored by *Property Week* magazine, and Regus won the international achievement award.

The judges said: "There has been a complete change in the office market and Mark Dixon has attached his own label to 'office hotelling'."

Regus has certainly taken the lead in helping people to change the way they work, using the best communications technology available.

The pace of expansion demonstrates potential demand: Regus aims to open one centre a week during 1997, investing more than £40 million during the year. At present there are more than 130 office locations in 34 countries, with about 70 under its direct management in the UK, the Continent, South Africa and South America, and the remainder through alliances in Australia and North America.

A typical Regus centre is 15,000 sq ft, split into small, fully furnished offices. The company rents the offices to companies on a pay-as-you-use basis, on short-term flexible agreements. Regus is committed to installing videoconferencing facilities in all its pan-European centres, making it the largest "public access" videoconferencing supplier in Europe. It is also launching "touchdown" facilities for teleworkers at all of its new centres. This will enable people whose work keeps them on the move to touch down at any centre to collect messages, make calls, write reports and take advantage of secretarial support. The secretarial and support staff speak at least two languages.

Brian Dudley, the chief executive, says: "The service we are offering is right for now and for the future. We are in the middle of a revolution in offices. Companies are realising the cost and demands of changing technology. We are allowing companies to move from one location to another."

In the UK, the number of centres increased from 15 to 26 last year and it is envisaged that there will eventually be 80-90, and up to 400-500 worldwide, all in prime locations.

While Regus aims to provide everything a company might need on a temporary basis, it acknowledges that there will always be a need for permanent offices, though they may shrink in size. But it has proved that its formula fills a demand. Its clients cover the whole range of business from new enterprises starting up to multinationals looking for new markets.

"Businessmen had to work in hotel bedrooms, a lonely existence. With Regus they can do their work and meet other people at the same time," says Mr Dudley.

Out of hamburger sales big business grows.

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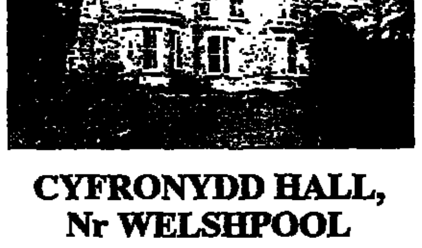

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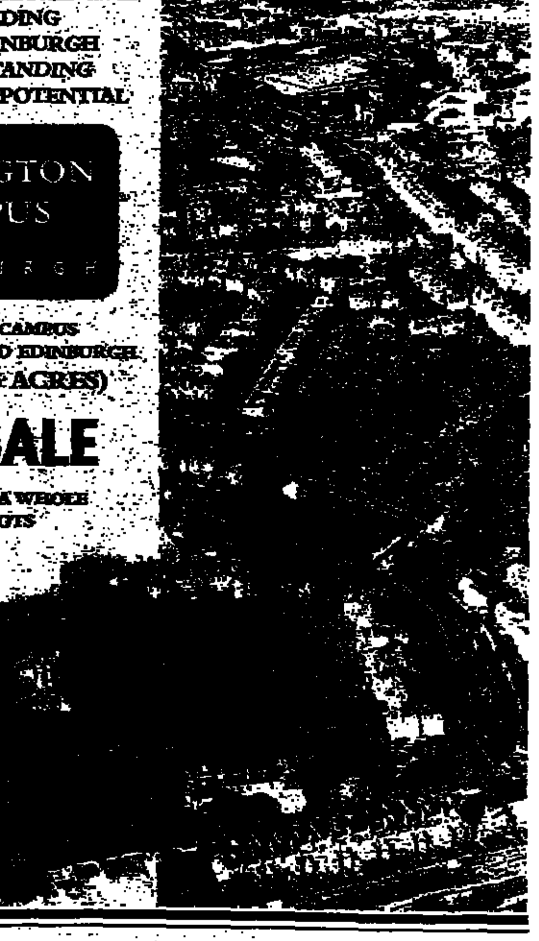

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I started as a tiddler on the roof

THE ROOFER'S TALE

Building secrets revealed as a craftsman confesses all to **Eve-Ann Prentice**

People say I am mad up on a roof, basically because I am fairly agile. I never ever fall. Even if I have had three or four pints, it doesn't affect me.

I am the eldest of a family of 13 from County Clare in Ireland and I was good at school and won a scholarship. I was studying electrical engineering at college but I dropped out. My mother didn't talk to me for three months after that, but I didn't want college. I still don't regret it because I enjoy my work. I like having fun with the others.

I have always had a head for heights. I used to climb on the ledges on the Cliffs of Moher back home, and when I was 12 I climbed the school chimneys to put flags up when the Pope came to Ireland to visit.

I went up there on my own. I was about four years old when I climbed a big ash tree and slipped from the small branches to bigger ones about four feet lower. I had glasses then to correct a squint and they broke ... I haven't worn glasses since.

I work 12 to 14 hours a day. We are putting up a roof in Mill Hill at the moment. It's all in the head when it comes to balance. Some people don't have the nerve. A lot of accidents are due to people's stupidity and lack of concentration.

Flat roofs are the most difficult because you are so tied to time, dealing with the hot tar. It is so finicky. If someone wants a new roof, I am their man.

I can do it and I never have any problems. There is no difference in the quality of a roof on a rich house or a modest house because all the tiles are factory-made, unless you have Cotswold stone, which is more expensive.

Slates cost about £1 each and the average roof costs £2,500 to £3,000, including labour.

People still swipe lead from roofs because you can get about £20 a hundredweight from the scrap metal merchants for it. Some foremen on building sites are very stupid in England. It varies from site to site. I am also a carpenter and I was working on the Jubilee Line extension working under a seven-and-a-half ton lintel and I asked the chargehand to pass me down some wood. He said he was blowed if he was going to go labouring for me.

It was good money there though — £500 a week. Then the recession hit. I think people have learnt a lesson about the black market. It will never be like it was during the boom years again. People made good money and they were silly.

I don't know what my dream life would be but I know I could never sit down.

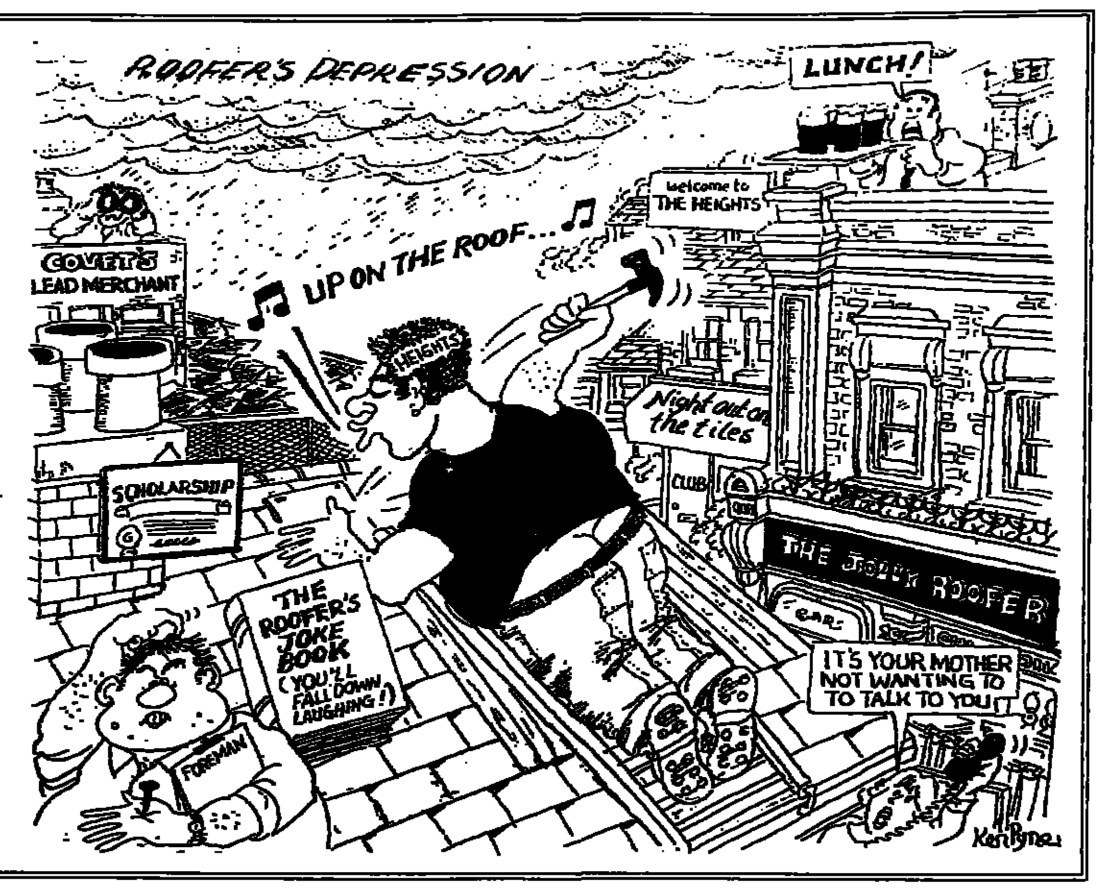
If it is raining on the roof it will definitely stop you working. The slates get too slippery.

Danger is all in people's heads. I was working on a site when a friend came over from Ireland to work with me. He was awful nervous and had to put sheet ply down to crawl across the beams. He had no head for heights.

We were brought in one Saturday at one place when the boss and his brother were finishing the roof. The boss asked my friend to hammer in the nails and my friend was at an awkward angle and afraid of hitting the boss's hand. The boss told him to hit the ****** thing and he took a great swing with the hammer. He took your man's thumbnail right off. My friend dropped the hammer and ran.

I won't be told what to do; I will nod in agreement but then do what I want.

My girlfriend worries about me. I have no personal insurance, but I am lucky. My two kids are fearless, too. I have a girl and a boy and the boy can't be kept down. They climb the wooden bookshelves at home, high up the wall.



With land values soaring, homeowners are dusting off their dark and cobwebbed image of basements, reports **Amanda Loose**

Britain's underground movement

Houses like this in Regent's Park provide inspiration for a new wave of homes with basements

Developers are going underground. As land values soar, lifestyles change and building land in prime locations becomes ever dearer, basements are making a comeback.

Popular on the Continent, and found in some 40 per cent of North American homes, basements are now being seized upon by many developers as a solution to changing housing needs.

Developers Fairclough Homes and Laing plan to build basements, while building organisations including the National House Building Council (NHBC), the British Cement Association and the Building Research Establishment have formed the Basement Development Group.

Basements were commonplace earlier this century, says Derek Hamilton-Knight of the NHBC, but their popularity dwindled after the Second World War: "They were seen as dark and filled with cobwebs in the 1950s and 1960s."

But as land becomes scarcer and ever more expensive in urban areas and demand for spacious new homes increases, developers are continually looking for ways to make the most of limited spaces.

Basements are a solution in densely populated areas such as London and the South East, says Mike Dobner of Fairclough Homes: "When developers pay such a premium for large areas of good building land, we need to maximise the square footage of house on each site.

"We have already built three-storey town houses with underground garages, but buyers seem to prefer two storeys above ground. We are currently looking at basements which are not fully sunken, with windows above ground to let in a little light."

And people are willing to pay for extra space, above or below ground, says Andrew Dewar of Curchods: "Many large new houses we market have a basement, often because developers are taking every opportunity to provide as much living accommodation as possible.

"We have recently sold a six-bedroom house in St George's Hill, Surrey, with 2,500 square feet of accommodation, including a gym and games room below ground, for around £1 million."

'People buy for the long term and homes need potential for a larger family or leisure'

In the new build market, Stuart Wallis of Laing Homes says there is now a good chance of getting a 10 to 15 per cent additional return on houses with basements at the top end of the market.

Laing Homes has included basements at its latest development in Cuffley, Hertfordshire, where the four houses will gain up to 1,000 sq ft of additional floor space.

"People now buy for the long term and homes need to have potential, be it for a larger family or leisure activities. We include basements in all our North American developments, and our research shows that people are very receptive to the idea of extra space," says Mr Wallis.

Mr Hamilton-Knight agrees: "New build houses were seen as a quick investment in the 1980s, but buyers now treat them as somewhere they want to live and can adapt into a home."

Thirlstone Homes hopes to start building basements after several buyers at the top end of the market inquired about them, says Tony Pidgley: "We initially thought about building wine cellars, but decided we shouldn't be so specific. More and more people demand extra space, whether they work at home, or want sauna rooms, gyms, storage space, utility and shower rooms — and in the case of one client a dog room — but do not want to lose an all-important bedroom."

Couple go Dutch to rid their home of dampness

Eve-Ann Prentice discovers a damp-control system from The Netherlands that promises to dry even the wettest home

Valerie and Richard Little have become the first people in Britain to go Dutch to cure the bane of their lives. The home they bought six years ago was dripping with condensation. Paint flaked off window frames almost as soon as it was applied. Upstairs rooms had an unnatural chill. Even their metal curtain rings turned green.

They bought a dehumidifier, but even that was defeated by the chronic damp at the family's home in Sanderstead, near Croydon, south London. It collected five litres of water in just two days.

Now the Littles' detached home has become the first in the United Kingdom to be fitted with a Dutch damp-control system which has won awards in its wet and be-dyked home country.

The system was devised more than 20 years ago by Dutchman Henk Schrijver, who specialised in fireplaces and chimneys. He noticed that chimney walls were often drier than the rest of a house, even if the home was plagued by damp. Since 1976 Mr Schrijver's device has been installed in tens of thousands of homes in The Netherlands, Belgium, France, Portugal and Spain.

The Schrijver Systeem is designed to draw damp air out of a house through a series of ceramic tubes cut into outside walls which act like mini-chimneys. Dry air is drawn into the tubes and over a bell-shaped clay element, where a draught is created causing a cold spot. Damp from inside the house is sucked into the system where it condenses in the cold spot and is carried outside by the constant airflow.

Now Mr Schrijver's son, Frank, and Evert de Graaf, a director of the Dutch company, have come to Britain to try to interest owners of damp homes in their product. The Little family became their first customers last month.

"The wall in one bedroom was very wet," says Mrs Little. "Windows would run with water and pools formed in windowsills.

"I don't think we will really know if it works until the autumn, but my husband and I were very impressed by the way the system was explained and how they worked when they installed it. They took a day-and-a-half and were so keen on cleaning up afterwards that in the end I had to push them to go."

The system, which carries a money-back guarantee, costs £87 a running metre to install — about £1,500 for the average British semi, the Schrijver company says.

"It looks very neat and friends who have called since it was installed did not even notice. I am very impressed," says Mrs Little.

Damp caused by condensation has become a problem in many modern homes where double glazing, draught excluders and damp courses can over-insulate rooms. David Tuffin, a chartered buildings surveyor and spokesman for the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, says: "We used to rely on natural draughts. By sticking in all these modern materials with impermeable finishes we are destroying the natural balance."

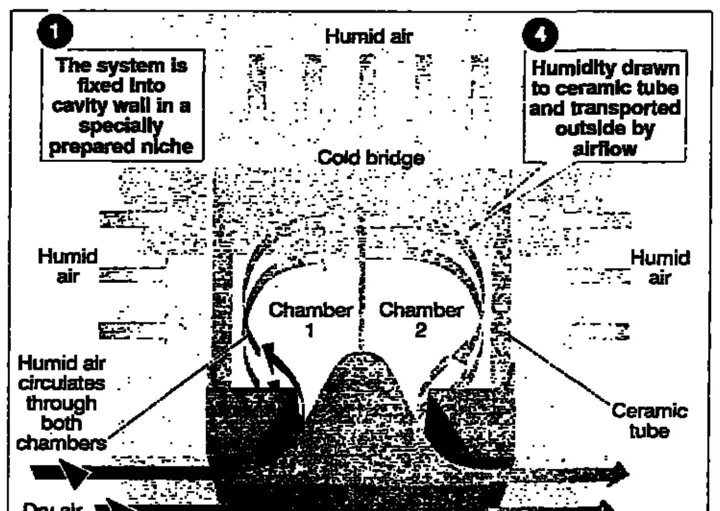
Mr Tuffin had not seen the Schrijver method, but said: "It may be a new product but the principle is not new in this country and devices that enhanced the natural draughts were used long before damp courses were thought of. They worked."

Other damp proofing specialists, who were also unaware of the Schrijver device, were less flattering. Mike Bromley, of the British Wood Preserving and Damp Proofing Association, said he could not see how it would work better than existing damp treatments, and Peter Trottman, of the Building Research Establishment, said: "I would think there would be a danger of salt contamination. I am highly sceptical."

Nonetheless, the Schrijver Systeem has won first prize in a national Dutch competition for new inventions and says it received its patent in 1988 only after tests on hundreds of houses in The Netherlands were carried out. It can be used in single brick and cavity walls, insulated and non-insulated homes, the Schrijver company says.

Professor Ingo Oldenkamp, of the Department of Design Engineering at Delft University in The Netherlands, has investigated the method and says: "It definitely works. At first I was very sceptical when I heard about it, but when I visited some houses treated with the system in a very damp area I was surprised. The people who had damp houses before are now very happy and I am impressed by how efficient it is."

● *For information about the Schrijver Systeem telephone 01737 552980.*


1
The system is fixed into cavity wall in a specially prepared niche
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4
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Cold bridge
Humid air
Humid air
Chamber 1
Chamber 2
Humid air circulates through both chambers
Ceramic tube
Dry air
2
Dry air drawn into ceramic tube around stone element
Front wall
Stone element
3
Second opening creates draught. Temperature in tube drops causing a cold bridge

Private landlords are given their own watchdog

Katherine Bergen on a new-style ombudsman for rented property

For the first time, private landlords can use the services of an independent Housing Ombudsman instead of going to law. He is Roger Jeffries, formerly the Housing Associations Tenants' Ombudsman.

A scheme which came into operation last month under the Housing Act of 1996 covers all social landlords other than local authorities, and offers voluntary membership to private sector landlords.

Two codes provide recognised and reasonable standards for the management of tenanted residential property. A further code was published last year by the Association of Retired Housing Managers. All three envisage that landlords should have clear procedures for handling complaints.

"It would therefore be logical and fair for unresolved complaints in the private rented sector to be considered by an Ombudsman. The Housing Act now enables me to fulfil that role," Mr Jeffries says.

He maintains that most landlords want to ensure their tenants get a good service, earn a good reputation and let their homes easily. Disputes with tenants cost money and time: going to court can be very expensive and sometimes damaging. If they are left unresolved, they can undermine competent housing management.

"The scheme offers an impartial, careful, informal and cost-effective review of complaints, after the landlord's own procedures have been followed. My rulings are conclusive, and I believe they are seen as fair," Mr Jefferies says. "Decisions are given with full explanations and reasons for them.

"I investigate complaints from tenants and others receiving housing services from landlords about matters concerning their relationship with their landlords. The complaint must have been registered with the landlord in the last twelve months of the matter arising and must have completed the landlord's own procedures before it can be considered by me.

"I must make a decision on each complaint according to what is fair in the circumstances. If I uphold the complaint, I can order compensation or other reasonable and appropriate redress."

Landlords in the scheme fund it through an annual subscription. In 1997-98 it is estimated that the charge will be 85p to 95p a year per unit of accommodation in the scheme. Saving the legal costs from one court case could easily meet a landlord's subscription for a whole year.

The subscription covers a full range of dispute resolution services including the Ombudsman staff and access to the advice they receive from the barristers and solicitors on difficult points of law and from a panel of experts who advise on accountancy, surveying and housing management as well as the mediation and arbitration service.

"We really do want to encourage private sector landlords," urges Mr Jeffries. "I suspect renting tenants' and leaseholders' problems are not markedly different from those in registered social housing, and we believe the extension of the Ombudsman concept will prove helpful."

● *More details are available from the Independent Housing Ombudsman at Norman House, 105-109, Strand, London C2R OAA.*

New umpires put on the boundary

Surveyors can now settle disputes between neighbours over party walls, writes **Stephen Brennan**

ROBERT Frost wrote "good fences make good neighbours". To take it one step further, good laws make good fences, and so ensure good neighbours.

Apart from noise, boundary disputes must be the single biggest cause of disputes between people who live next door to each other.

Good relations can be strained if one owner discovers damage done to his property through work commenced on an adjoining wall by a neighbour, of which he had no warning. Costly litigation could well follow.

The Party Wall Act 1996, which comes into force on July 1, simplifies the procedures that must be observed if building work or treatment is applied to a wall shared by two properties and extends protection to people whose only recourse now is legal action after the damage has been done.

Essentially, the Act will make it easier to work on a party wall. Outside London, owners have had complete ownership of their half of an adjoining wall and neighbours have had very limited rights over next door's half. This has meant that neighbours can object and halt work on a house that intrudes into their section of a shared wall, even if no damage will ensue. This is especially relevant to kitchen and loft extensions.

London has had a simplified procedure since the London Building Act 1939, which ensures that neighbours must be notified of proposed works on shared walls and provides a low-cost and streamlined form of arbitration in disputes. It will be repealed on July 1 when the new Act — based very closely on the London Building Act — comes into force.

Under the new Act, the half of a wall, lying on an owner's side belongs to him and he has rights over the other half.

'The ideal solution is for both parties to choose one surveyor'

John Kelly is a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. He is a partner with the Kelly Langley Partnership based in Bromley, south London and Cambridge and specialises in the new Act. He says: "The new legislation should simplify matters for householders.

"Anyone who wants to carry out works which affect a shared structure will be legally bound to inform their neighbours first and give them the opportunity to appoint a surveyor before works start."

Where a party wall exists, a great number of rights are given to building owners. They can raise it, thicken it, underpin it, cut into it (for a flashing, damp-proof course or a steel joist, for example) or even demolish it and rebuild it. The Act allows work to go ahead without a neighbour's permission as long as strict procedures are adhered to. This was not possible before. There are, however, some restraints.

Mr Kelly says that before doing any works, the building owner must serve notice giving his or her name and address, details of the work and when it will start. This must be at least two months before work begins and expires if the work has not started within a year or does not proceed at a reasonable speed.

"Any disputes are resolved through a simple procedure involving surveyors," says Mr Kelly. "The ideal solution is for both parties to choose one surveyor in whom they both have confidence to act as 'agreed surveyor' and settle all matters in contention.

"He can decide whether damage has been caused and how to put it right. This is the cheapest solution, especially for small works."

John Kelly: "simple procedure"

John Anstey, FRICS, of Anstey Horne & Co, has been involved with the drafting of the Act from its inception. He has been campaigning for a change in the law since 1964, seeking to extend the London Act to the rest of England and Wales.

"It is such a good system that it is a pity that people have to go to court to sue each other when surveyors are capable of settling disputes amicably," he says.

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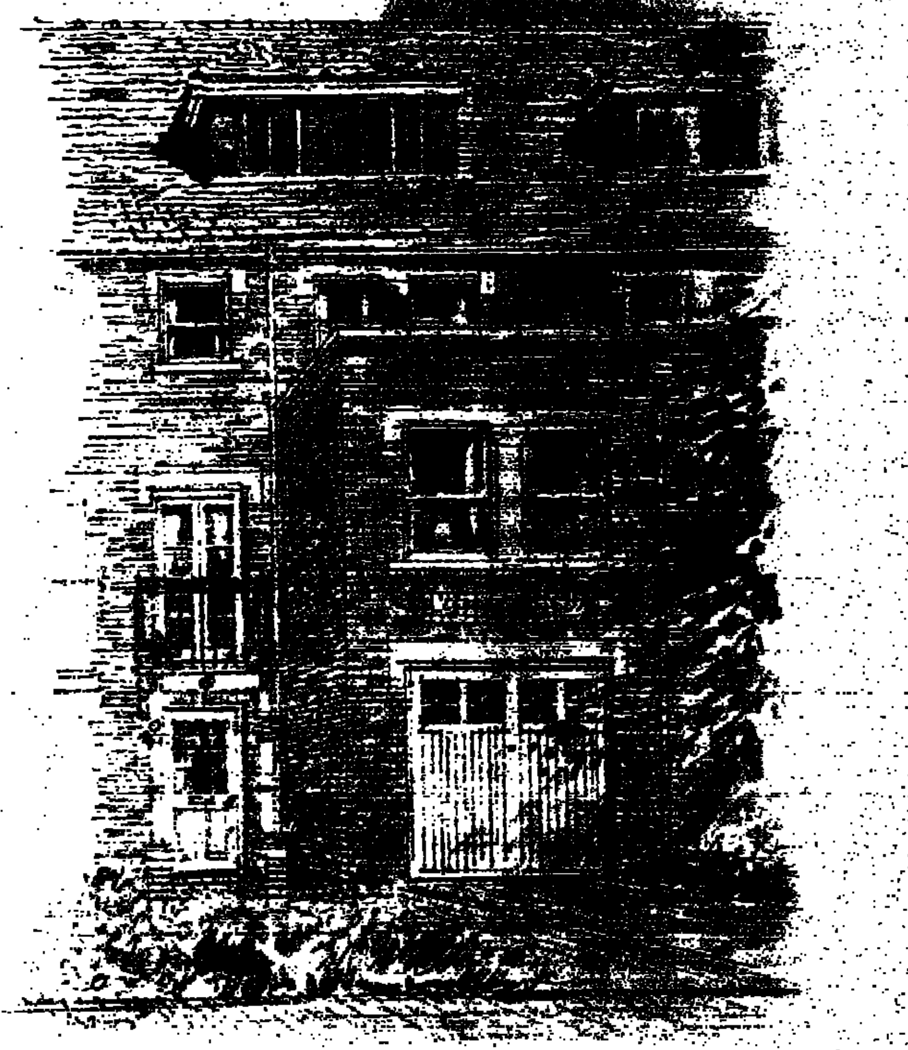

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